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Gift of Heaven
SATB Choir, Cantor, Keyboard, Guitar, Solo Instrument(s) in C or B \flat ,
Cello (or Bassoon), Handbells, Assembly

Maureen Briare

ocp CHORAL SERIES

Gift of Heaven

Maureen Briare

Preview

FROM THE COLLECTION

The Road of Mercy

MP3 Album #30149104



Gift of Heaven

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN *Prayerfully, confidently* (♩ = ca. 74)

Capo 3: (C) Eb (G) Bb (Csus4) Ebsus4 (C) Eb (F) Ab

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Keyboard

(E) G (E/G#) G/B (Asus4) (Am) Csus4 Cm (G/B) Bb/D

life and our sal - va - tion: When we share this

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The Refrain may be played as an Introduction. During the verses, the choir may sing the Ostinato Refrain on "oo."
The keyboard accompaniment for the verses serves as an alternate accompaniment to the Ostinato Refrain.

(Csus4) (C) (Am7) (Esus4) 1... Final
 Eb sus4 Eb Cm7 G sus4 (E) (Am) (G) (E)
 G Cm Bb G
 to Verses Fine

ban - quet we re - mem - ber you. you.

1... to Verses Final Fine

VERSES

(C) (G) (Csus4) (C) (F) (E) (E/G#) (Asus4) (Am)
 Eb Bb Eb sus4 Eb Ab G G/B Csus4 Cm

Melody

Harmony

1. Bless - ed are you, Lord, God of our sal - va - tion.
2. In faith we of - fer gifts of your cre - a - tion.
3. Bread of our har - vest, Wine the fruit of our hands,
4. Drink of this good - ness, taste the grace e - ter - nal.
5. Bread of sal - va - tion, now in true com - mun - ion
6. Food for our hun - ger, ta - ble of our Shep - herd,

(G/B) (Csus4) (C) (Esus4) (E) (Am) (G)
 Bb/D Eb sus4 Eb G sus4 G Cm Bb D.C.

1. Through your good - ness we have come to give you thanks.
2. In your love ac - cept this hum - ble sac - ri - fice.
3. now be - come our life, our truth, our on - ly way.
4. Ho - ly man - na is our bread, our joy - ful feast.
5. bro - ken, blessed and shared so all may be as one.
6. lead us to the king - dom, guide us all our days.

D.C.

Gift of Heaven

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) in C

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN (♩ = ca. 74)

Variation I

Variation II

Variation III

1... to Verses Final Fine

to Verses Fine

to Verses Fine

VERSES 1-6

Variation I D.C.

Variation II D.C.

Variation III D.C.

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Refrain may be played as an Introduction.

Gift of Heaven

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) in B \flat

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 74$)

The Ostinato Refrain section consists of three variations of a melodic line in 4/4 time, each spanning four measures. Variation I starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. Variation II starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. Variation III starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. The final section of the refrain is divided into three parts, each with a 'to Verses' instruction and a 'Final' or 'Fine' marking. The first part has a '1...' marking above the first measure. The second part has a 'Final' marking above the first measure. The third part has a 'Fine' marking above the first measure. The key signature is B \flat and the time signature is 4/4.

VERSES 1-6

The Verses 1-6 section consists of three variations of a melodic line in 4/4 time, each spanning four measures. Variation I starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. Variation II starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. Variation III starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a dotted half note B4. Each variation ends with a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) marking. The key signature is B \flat and the time signature is 4/4.

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Refrain may be played as an Introduction.

Gift of Heaven

HANDBELLS

Maureen Briare



OSTINATO REFRAIN/VARIATION 1 (♩ = ca. 74)



VERSES 1-6/VARIATION 2



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Refrain may be played as an Introduction.

Gift of Heaven

CELLO (or BASSOON)

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN/VARIATION 1 (♩ = ca. 74)



1... to Verses Final Fine VERSES 1-6/VARIATION 2

D.C.

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Refrain may be played as an Introduction.

Composer Notes

I have a personal affinity for prayerful ostinatos, where melody and text intersect to draw a person deeper into God’s spiritual embrace and beauty. I like to think of an ostinato as a musical ‘journey’ of sorts, in which choir, instruments, and solo voices can be creatively varied or simplified to evoke differing timbres within the melodies and harmonies of the song. I find great joy in arranging ostinatos, and I hope that you will enjoy arranging “Gift of Heaven” for your community.

The text for “Gift of Heaven” was inspired by the Prayer of the Offering prayed by the priest as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. The first three verses are especially suited liturgically for the Presentation and Preparation of Gifts, and the subsequent verses during Communion, as the simplicity of the refrain is very singable for the congregation. The verses can be sung as a solo, a duet, or choir section, with the choir oo-ing the refrain underneath if desired. Instrumentalists, including a handbell choir, have multiple options for harmonies to embellish the singing.

“Gift of Heaven” was composed for a Dedication Mass to celebrate the opening of a new campus dining hall where students, families, and members of the University of Portland community gather to share meals, stories, and festive events. Whenever we gather as one at the table of the Lord, we share a sacred meal that is truly a gift of heaven and spiritual nourishment for our earthly lives. I am evermore grateful for this gift, and the beauty of liturgy where it is received.


—Maureen Briare

Assembly Edition

GIFT OF HEAVEN

Maureen Briare

Ostinato Refrain



Bread, the gift of heav-en, our life and our sal - va-tion:

When we share this ban-quet we re - mem - ber you.

Verses

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Blessed are you, Lord,
God of our salvation.
Through your goodness we have come
to give you thanks.</p> <p>2. In faith we offer gifts of your creation.
In your love accept this humble sacrifice.</p> <p>3. Bread of our harvest,
Wine the fruit of our hands,
Now become our life, our truth,
our only way.</p> | <p>4. Drink of this goodness,
taste the grace eternal.
Holy manna is our bread, our joyful feast.</p> <p>5. Bread of salvation, now in true communion
broken, blessed and shared
so all may be as one.</p> <p>6. Food for our hunger,
table of our Shepherd,
lead us to the kingdom,
guide us all our days.</p> |
|---|---|

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