The Nicene Creed

Stephen Dean
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Soprano / Alto

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

Tenor / Bass

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Note: Keyboard may double choral score to encourage congregational singing.
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At the words that follow, up to and including “and became man,” all bow.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory.
to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

*Cue notes may be hummed or sung on “ah” by choir.

The Nicene Creed
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

( fit = ca. 60) Alternate Ending

Composer Notes

It might be asked why the Creed needs to be sung at all. The answer is the same as for any other text in the liturgy—music has the aim of “making prayer more pleasing, promoting unity of minds, or conferring greater solemnity upon the sacred rites.” (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, 65). Although it is low down on the list of musical priorities, to introduce an element of lyricism into this rather prosaic text seems appropriate; many older Catholics can still sing Credo III from memory.

This is a simple setting which is easily learned. It was written for a workshop on the revised translation of the *Roman Missal*, as music can often ease the way to introduce a new text. Encouraged by its favorable reception I subsequently introduced it in the parish where I lead the music, where we sing in unison, and made this choral arrangement for another parish which requested it. It could be sung by choir and congregation in alternation, a traditional way of singing the creed.

No dynamic marks have been provided, but to reduce volume at “For us men and our salvation” would be appropriate, with a *rallentando* at “and became man.” The volume can be gradually increased after that, with “he will come again in glory” being a high point.

—*Stephen Dean*
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven...
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.