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Behold the Wood of the Cross
SATB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar, Solo Instrument in C, Assembly

Katie Wills/Michael C. Kuchar

OCF

CHORAL SERIES

Behold the Wood of the Cross

Music by
Katie Wills

Text by
Katie Wills and Michael C. Kuchar

Preview

Behold the Wood of the Cross

Based on the Good Friday Liturgy
 Refrain and Bridge: Katie Wills
 Verses: Michael C. Kuchar and Katie Wills

Katie Wills
 Arr. by Scott Soper

INTRO (♩ = ca. 104)

Keyboard

Dm Gm/D A sus4/D

REFRAIN

Soprano
 Alto
 Tenor
 Bass

Be - hold the wood of the cross, on

Dm Gm A sus4 A

which is hung the sav - ior of the world. Come

Dm Gm A sus4 A

bow _____ in love _____ be - fore him, as

Bbadd9 C Fsus4 F F/A

to Coda ⊕ 1, 2
we a - dore the wood _____ where life was won.

Bb A7 to Coda ⊕ 1, 2 Dm Gm/D

to Verses 3 to Bridge
won.

Dm to Verses 3 Dm Dm/C to Bridge
cresc.

VERSES

Melody

Harmony

1. 7 Nails in his hands, 7 thorns in his brow, his heart pierced so
 2. His arms o-pened wide, em-brac-ing the world, the great be- ne-
 *3. 7 Crowned with our sins, the cross is his throne; the stripes of our
 4. The thoughts of his mind formed Cal-va-ry's hill, each nail held in
 5. 7 Bow-ing his head to the di-vine plan, o-be-dient to

C/E F F/E Dm

1. cruel-ly, yet mer-cy flows down. The in-no-cent Lamb 7
 2. dic-tion, a-tone-ment ful-filled. As death de-roys death, his
 3. shame form his glo-ri-ous robe. The King of all kings, in
 4. place by the strength of his will. The Word who spoke life, with
 5. death was Christ, Son of Man; and breath-ing his last, com-

Bb Dm

1. car-ries the guilt of all the world. *D.S.*
 2. light o-ver-comes the dark-ness of sin.
 3. still-ness of death, he reigns through love.
 4. his fi-nal breath makes all things new.
 5. mends his spir-it in-to the Fa-ther's hands.

F/C G add9/B Bbmaj7 A sus2,4 *D.S.*

*Verses 3-5 optional, if needed for extra time. See Composer Notes.

BRIDGE

unis. *div.*

Our lives are re-deemed, — most pre - cious the cost: — the death of our

unis. *div.*

*B*add9 *F*add9/A *D*m

God on this ho - ly cross, the Tree of Life, al - tar of grace —

F/C *G*add9/B *B*b

D.S. al Coda

and love.

*Am*7 *G*add9 *A* sus2,4 *A* *D.S. al Coda*

dim.

⊕ CODA

unis.

won. _____ Come bow in love be -

unis.

⊕ Dm B♭add9 C

dim.

fore him, as we a - dore the wood _____ where life was

Fsus4 F F/A B♭ A7

rit.

won. _____

rit.

Dm Gm/D A sus4/D Dm

rit.

Composer Notes

This piece is primarily intended to be used during the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday. With that in mind, we have written additional optional verses that may be used if necessary. While each director of music should feel free to incorporate the optional extra verses in the way that seems best, here are a few suggestions on how this might be accomplished:

- Sing all five verses and omit the bridge entirely.
- Sing the desired number of verses, then the Bridge, final Refrain and Coda.
- Sing two verses followed by the Bridge as written, then sing two more verses followed again by the Bridge.

Note that the Solo Instrument part is not designed to accommodate the extra verses, so it will be necessary to mark the part carefully and consult with the player if additional verses are going to be sung.

When writing this text, we wanted to explore the paradox of the cross, whereby the instrument of torture and death is transformed into a symbol of life and hope through Jesus's obedient sacrifice of love. By his passion and death on the cross, Christ redeems our lives, and we are set free to serve him by obediently denying ourselves, taking up our crosses and following him.

—*Michael C. Kuchar and Katie Wills*

Preview

Behold the Wood of the Cross

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on the Good Friday Liturgy

Katie Wills

Refrain and Bridge: Katie Wills

Verses: Michael C. Kuchar and Katie Wills

INTRO (♩ = ca. 104)Capo 5: (Am)
Dm(Dm/A)
Gm/D(Esus4/A)
Asus4/D

REFRAIN(Am)
Dm(Dm)
Gm(Esus4)
Asus4(E)
A(Am)
Dm(Dm)
Gm

Be - hold _____ the wood of the cross, on which is hung the sav - ior of _____ the

(Esus4)
Asus4(E)
A(Fadd9)
Badd9(G)
C(Csus4)(C)
Fsus4 F(C/E)
F/A(F)
Bb

world. Come bow in love be - fore him, as we a-dore the wood

(E7)
A7

1, 2

(Am)
Dm(Dm/A)
Gm/D(Am)
Dm

3

(Am)
Dm(Am/G)
Dm/C

_____ where life was won. won.

VERSES(G/B)
C/E(C)
F(C/B)
F/E

1. 7 Nails in his _____ hands, 7 thorns in his _____ brow, his
 2. His arms o-pened _____ wide, em - brac - ing the _____ world, the
 *3. 7 Crowned with our _____ sins, the cross is his _____ throne; the
 4. The thoughts of his _____ mind formed Cal - va - ry's _____ hill, each
 5. 7 Bow - ing his _____ head to the di - vine _____ plan, o -

(Am)
Dm(F)
Bb

1. heart pierced so cruel - ly, yet mer - cy flows _____ down. The
 2. great be - ne - dic - tion, a - tone - ment ful - filled. As
 3. stripes of our shame form his glo - ri - ous _____ robe. The
 4. nail held in place by the strength of his _____ will. The
 5. be - dient to death _____ was Christ, Son of _____ Man; and

(Am) Dm (C/G) F/C

1. in - no - cent ___ Lamb 7 car - ries the guilt ___ of
 2. death de - stroy - s ___ death, his light o - ver - comes ___ the
 3. King of all ___ kings, in still - ness of death, ___ he
 4. Word who spoke ___ life, with his fi - nal breath ___ makes
 5. breath - ing his ___ last, com - mends ___ his spir - it

(Dadd9/F#) Gadd9/B (Fmaj7) Bbmaj7 (E sus2,4) A sus2,4 D.S.

1. all ___ the world.
 2. dark - ness of sin.
 3. reigns ___ through love.
 4. all ___ things new.
 5. in - to the Fa - ther's hands.

BRIDGE (Fadd9) Bbadd9 (Cadd9/E) Fadd9/A

Our lives are re - deemed, ___ most pre - cious the cost: ___ the

(Am) Dm (C/G) F/C (Dadd9/F#) Gadd9/B (F) Bb

death of our God on this ho - ly cross, the Tree of Life,

(Em7) Am7 (Dadd9) Gadd9 (E sus2,4) A sus2,4 (E) A D.S. al Coda

al - tar of grace ___ and love. ___

⊕ CODA

(Am) Dm (Fadd9) Bbadd9 (G) C (Csus4) (C) F sus4 F (C/E) F/A

won. ___ Come bow in love be - fore him, as

(F) Bb (E7) A7 (Am) Dm (Dm/A) Gm/D (E sus4/A) A sus4/D (Am) Dm

we a - dore the wood ___ where life was won. ___ *rit.*

Behold the Wood of the Cross

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

Katie Wills
Arr. by Scott Soper

INTRO ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$) REFRAIN VERSE 1

4 18 16

REFRAIN

VERSE 2

REFRAIN

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*Vocal score includes three additional verses as an option; confer with the music director concerning any returns to the segno.

BRIDGE

Musical staff for the first line of the BRIDGE section. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, a quarter rest, and a quarter note G4 with a sharp sign. The staff concludes with a half note G4. The instruction *cresc.* is written below the staff.

Musical staff for the second line of the BRIDGE section. It continues the melody from the first line. The instruction *cresc.* is written below the staff.

REFRAIN

Musical staff for the first line of the REFRAIN section. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. A measure rest for 4 measures is indicated above the staff. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note G4. The instruction *dim.* is written below the staff.

Musical staff for the second line of the REFRAIN section. It continues the melody from the first line. The instruction *dim.* is written below the staff.

(CODA)

Musical staff for the first line of the CODA section. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note G4. The instruction *dim.* is written below the staff.

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Assembly Edition

BEHOLD THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

Katie Wills and Michael C. Kuchar

Refrain

Be - hold the wood of the cross, on
which is hung the sav - ior of the world. Come bow in
love be - fore him, as we a - dore the wood where life was
won.

2 (Fine) Verses

1. Nails in his hands, 2. His arms o - pened wide, em -
1. thorns in his brow, his heart pierced so cruel - ly, yet
2. brac - ing the world, the great be - ne - dic - tion, a -
1. mer - cy flows down. The in - no - cent Lamb 2. tone - ment ful - filled. As death de - stroy - s death, his
1. car - ries the guilt of all the world. 2. light o - ver - comes the dark - ness of sin.

Bridge

Our lives are redeemed,
most precious the cost;
the death of our God on this holy cross,
the Tree of Life, altar of grace and love.

Additional Verses (Optional)

3. Crowned with our sins,
the cross is his throne;
the stripes of our shame
form his glorious robe.
The King of all kings,
in stillness of death,
he reigns through love.

4. The thoughts of his mind
formed Calvary's hill,
each nail held in place
by the strength of his will.
The Word who spoke life,
with his final breath
makes all things new.
5. Bowing his head to the divine plan,
obedient to death
was Christ, Son of Man;
and breathing his last,
commends his spirit
into the Father's hands.

Text: Refrain and Bridge, Katie Wills; Verses, Michael C. Kuchar and Katie Wills. Music: Katie Wills.
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