

A Study Plan for Helen Kemp's

A Lenten Love Song (CGA-486)

As the writer of the words and music for this piece, I would like to share some of my thoughts about it. For me, as a teacher of children, the season of Lent is always difficult to explain. Palm Sunday is fine, seemingly joyful and spirited. But to tell about the week that followed is almost too much for young children to comprehend. I have tried in *A Lenten Love Song* to take a short scene from Matthew 26:36-39 and explore the feelings of our Lord as he struggled to fulfill God's plan. And this he did with the greatest love. The

halo shining over the scene comes through the singing of the Latin chant, "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est," which means "Where charity (giving) and love abide, God is there." The tune of the chant comes from the Taizé Community in France, where the Brothers share their simple songs with all people. Children usually love to sing a snatch of another language. These Latin words are easily learned and very beautiful.

Look at the music score. 👁 👁

Think in terms of a small drama.

- A The Scene: Narration (Matthew 26:36-39)
- A The Lament: measures 1-11
(expressing sorrow)
- ▲ B Jesus' Prayer: measures 12-15
- A The Lament: measures 16-26
- ▲ B Jesus' Second Prayer: measures 27-34
- C The Chant: measures 35-42
(1 John 4:16—expressing faith and love)



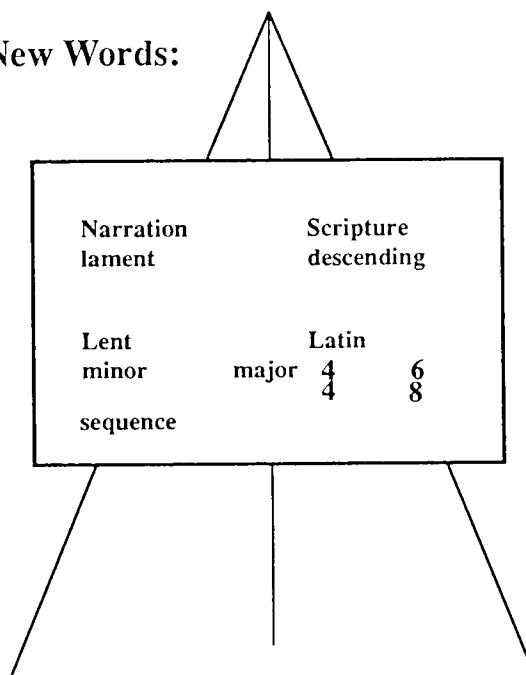
The accompaniment:

Look for:



It comes 14 times in the accompaniment

👉 New Words:



■ Section A (measures 1-11)



The melody:

Look for:



Now Jesus went in - to the	gar - den,
The gar-den of Geth-se - ma	- ne ____
He went there sad and very	wea - ry
To be a - lone, to	pray. ____

This melodic phrase is sung 8 times. Practice this minor melody on *loo, loo, loo*. Match up words with that melody.

The Lament:

1. Now Jesus went into the garden,
The garden of Gethsemane,
He went there sad and very weary
To be alone, to pray.
2. Now Jesus went into the garden,
The garden of Gethsemane
The olive tree bent over him,
And heard him sadly pray:

Observe:



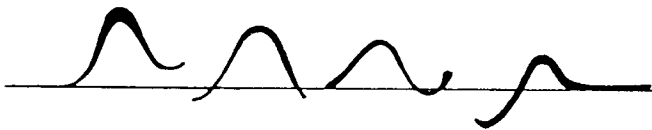
- a minor key,
- a descending pattern,
- repetition in the accompaniment,
- a falling melodic pattern

▲ Section B (measures 12-15)

On measure 11, 4th beat, ♭ look at the melody.
Spotlight these intervals. Practice singing these, echoing the director's voice, or echoing the piano.




Look at the curve of each phrase.



You can see the rise and fall in each one. Notice that certain parts of each curve are heavy or light to match volume changes.

Close your eyes and **listen** to the melody as it is played (or sung). Open your eyes and your music score. Sing measures 12 through 15.

 Let's **listen** to the recorded tape, all the way through the song. Follow right from the beginning with your eyes and your pointer finger to keep your place. Focus your eyes on the words and the notes above the words. Be ready to turn the page! Listen to the places that sound different from what we have just learned.

➔ Next Week:

We learn Latin words. What measure numbers have **Latin** words? (measures 35-42)

Session 2 (continued from last week)

Open your music score for *A Lenten Love Song*. Look at the inside cover of the anthem. Find the Latin words. How do the words sound? What do the words mean? All of the answers are on your special choristers' page.

Practice **saying** this wonderful Latin phrase in the rhythm of the melody, until it is easy and flowing. Focus your eyes on the music page, measure 35. **Listen** to the melody. Very easy – and very beautiful – only seven Latin words, and only six different tones. You can learn this part (by memory) in four minutes! Good! You **did** it!

Now sing it with the accompaniment. Don't let the piano part mix you up. Keep your eyes on the words and the melody. Can someone sing it **alone**?

Explore:

Beginning on measure 31 (plus one note before), how many times do we sing "to do your will"? (3) Play the melody of measures 31 through 33 on the piano. Do the phrases sound the same or different? With your eyes focused on your score, **sing** from the last note of measure 30 through measure 34. Did you notice that those three phrases were based on the same melody, repeated at different pitches? In music language, that is called a sequence.

The last piece of the puzzle:

Find measure 28. Beginning with the last word in that measure, **read** the words of Jesus' prayer:

"Let love take hold of me!
Help me to be bold and free
To do your will, to do your will,
to do your will and rest."

Listen carefully as the pianist plays this second prayer, starting on the last note of measure 26. See how far you can sing along with the piano melody.

Fit **all** the pieces of the melody puzzle together, starting with the last note of measure 26. Try to sing as far as you can with the accompaniment — all the way to the end.



Let's listen to the whole recorded tape (CGAT-8). Follow the words and the melody. Can you sing along as you listen? Get the **feeling** of the whole song.

When we come to "Ubi caritas," look up and sing that from **memory**. Close your music score and try it!

Additional ideas:

Try using handbells on the accompaniment on Section A, playing bass clef notes as written. Play only the descending octaves of the treble clef notes, not doubling the children's vocal part. Keyboard (piano or organ) would begin on the pickup to measure 12 and play through measure 15, with handbells again playing on measures 16 through 26, keyboard on measures 26-43, and bells again from measure 44 to the end.