

WHEN HE COMES AGAIN / JOY TO THE WORLD

As these mash-ups took on a life of their own, my Primary chorister, Lauren Pollock, told me about one of her own mash-up ideas that she had been thinking about for a while. In her own words:

I have always appreciated the traditional Christmas song “Joy to the World,” but I felt a new reverence for it when I realized that it is a song about the Second Coming of Christ, not his lowly advent in a stable in Bethlehem. It is a song about the future day that will surely come when “Earth [will] receive her King” and “every heart [will] prepare him room!” With this new understanding it seemed natural to pair the song with another that also looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ: the children’s tune “When He Comes Again.” In my mind, I could hear the songs fitting together, their harmonies and hopeful messages entwined. Our ward Primary and choir performed this powerful rendition, bearing testimony through music of the certainty of Christ’s return to Earth and the hope and wonderment that every Primary child (and faithful follower of Christ) feels as they ponder, speculate, and look forward to that great day.

Tips

- You will see that I have two versions for the piano on this one. One has a more syncopated rhythm in the bottom hand that gives it a little more zing and character. However, I even had a hard time playing that version to be honest, so I made a simpler version without the syncopation but kept the cool chord progressions that make it interesting. So pick the one you like better.
- The “Joy to the World” part is high for both women and men, but just sing it nice and gentle. No straining needed. The tempo is slower than what you normally sing in the hymnbook, which makes singing the high notes even harder, but it is worth it for the resonating beauty that combines with the piano.

Performance Suggestions

- I had the children sing “When He Comes Again” and my adult choir sang “Joy to the World.”
- Child soloist and choir