

SAMPLE SCORE: Several pages omitted

# THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK

for SATB Choir, 5 Soloists, and Drone

Commissioned by Christ Church Episcopal (New Haven, CT)

Robert Lehman, organist and choirmaster

For Palm Sunday, Episcopal year B

With tunes adapted from Daniel Read (1757-1836) of New Haven, CT

Mark 14:32-15:47  
(translation: NRSV)

Robinson McClellan

NARRATOR

Soprano (or Tenor)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ ac-cor-ding to Mark. They went to a place called Geth sema - ne; and he

Tenor

JUDAS, PETER, HIGH PRIEST, PILATE

Baritone (or Bass) 1

JESUS

Soprano (or Alto)

SERVANT GIRL, "SOMEONE"

Baritone (or Bass) 2

CENTURION

CHOIR

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

\*At the discretion of the performers, different colors and octave doublings may be used in the drone to emphasize meanings in the text.

Drone (organ or any other sustaining instrument)

*p sempre*

N.B. Unstemmed notes are unmetred, and do not receive equal value; they should be sung in a free speech rhythm. The drone follows the speech rhythms of the Narrator in unmetred passages.

Copyright © 2006 by Robinson McClellan - www.robinsonmcclellan.com - All Rights Reserved.  
Common Bible: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

2 *\* = 90*

Narr. *said to his dis - ciples,* *He*

JESUS (Tune based on "The King's Majesty" by Graham George)  
*freely*

B1. *Sit here, sit here\_\_ while\_\_ I pray.*

Dr.

9

Narr. *took with him Peter and James and John, and be gan to be dis-tressed and a-gi-ta-ted. And he said to them,*

Dr.

12 *= 90*

Narr. *JESUS* *And*

B1. *freely*  
*I am deep-ly\_\_ grieved, e-ven to death; re-main here and keep a - wake.*

Dr.

19

Narr. *going a little far-ther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.*

Dr.

20 *= 90*

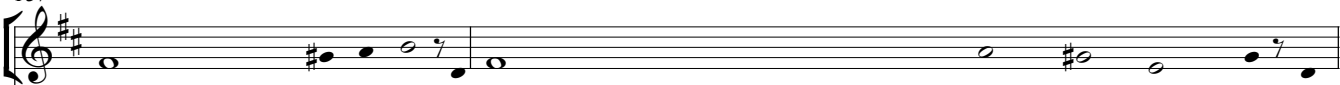
Narr. *He\_\_ said, JESUS*

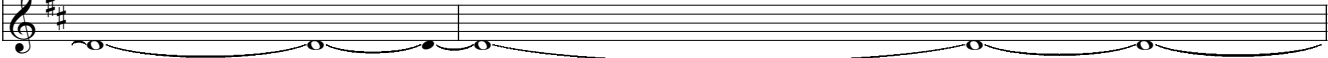
B1. *freely*  
*Ab-ba, Ab - ba, Fa-ther, for you all things are pos-si-ble; re -*

Dr.


\*The final 3 or 4 ascending notes leading into Jesus' words should be slightly slower and more even than the rest of the narrator's part, to help the drone player coordinate the downward minor third. This applies in all similar cases whenever the narrator leads into a solo role.


137

Narr.  All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They


Dr. 


139

Narr.  caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. They

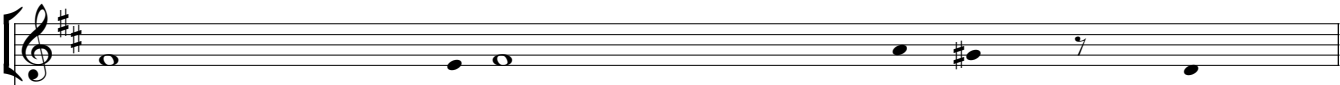
Dr. 

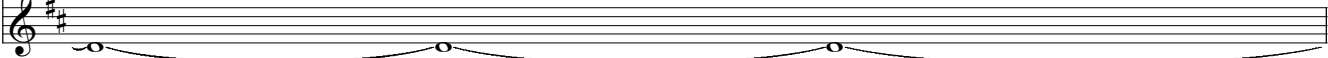
140

Narr.  took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.


Dr. 

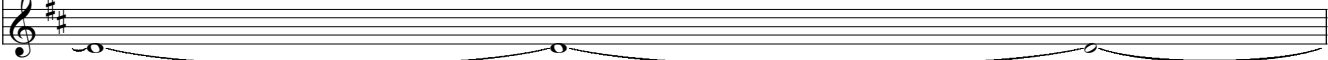
141

Narr.  Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and

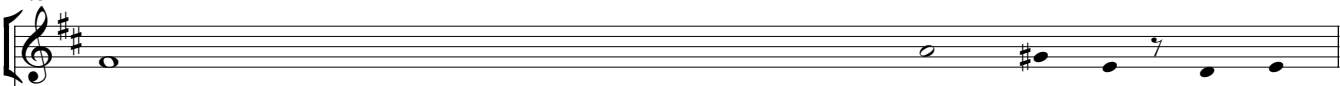
Dr. 

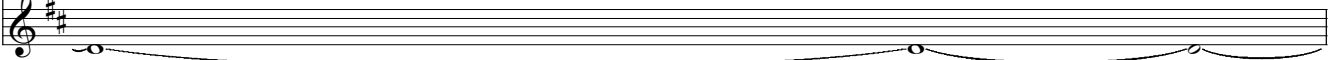
142

Narr.  he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the

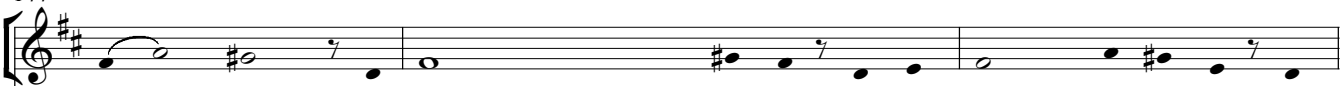
Dr. 

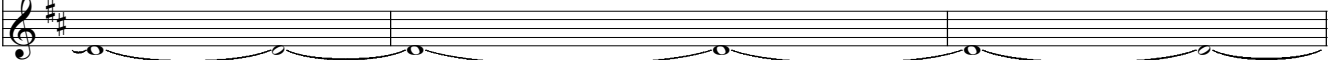
143

Narr.  chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they

Dr. 

144

Narr.  found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some

Dr. 

147 ♩ = 112

Narr. 

stood up and gave false testimony a-against him, say - - ing, WITNESSES (Tune: "Sudbury")  
*marcato, accusatory* **f**

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Dr. 

We  
We  
We we  
We

152

S. 

heard him say "I will de - stroy this tem - ple that is made with hands,

A. 

heard him say "I will de - stroy this tem - ple that is made with hands,

T. 

heard him say "I will de - stroy this tem - ple that is made with hands,

B. 

heard him say "I will de - stroy this tem - ple that is made with hands,

Dr. 

159

S. and in three days I will build, build, build an - o - ther, not made with

A. I will build, build, build an - o - ther, not, not, not made with

T. and in three days I will build an - o - ther, not, not made with

B. and in three days I will, I will build, build, build an - o - ther, not made with

Dr.

166

Narr. But even on this point their testimony did not a - gree. Then the

S. hands."

A. hands."

T. hands."

B. hands."

Dr.

169

$\text{♩} = 112$

Narr. high priest stood up be - fore them and asked Je - sus, HIGH PRIEST (Tune: "Sudbury")  
*marcato, accusatory*

T. Have you no ans - wer? What is it

Dr.

268 ♩ = 54

Narr. 

But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, PETER (Tune: "Camden")

T.  *legato*

I do not, do not, do not know this.

S. 

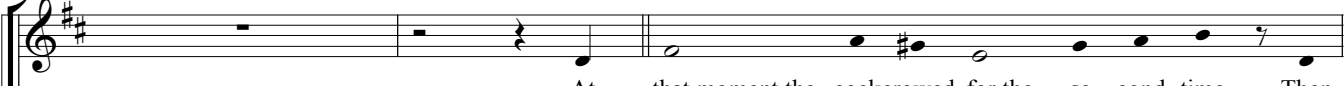
A. 

T. 


B. 

Dr. 


274

Narr. 

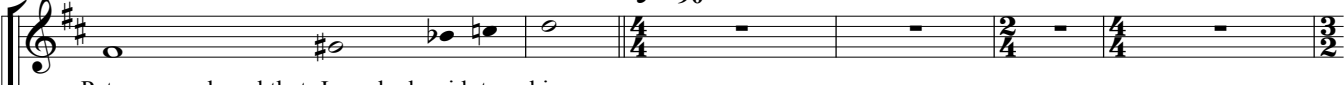
At that moment the cockcrowed for the second time. Then

T. 


man you are talk - ing a - bout.

Dr. 

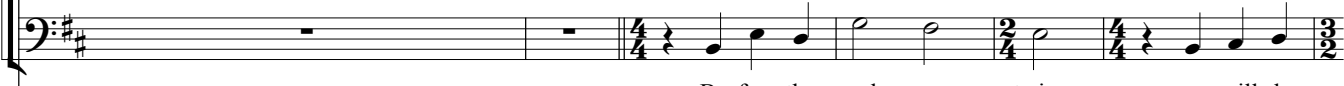
277 ♩ = 90

Narr. 


Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, PETER

T. 

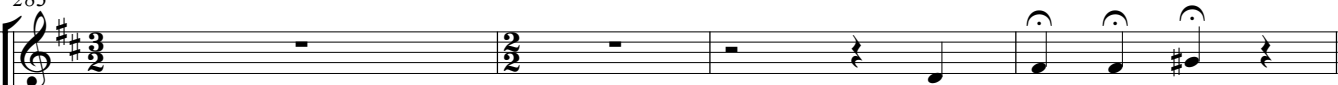
Be-fore the cock crows twice, you will de-  
JESUS

B1. 


Be-fore the cock crows twice, you will de-

Dr. 


283

Narr. 


And he broke down

T. 


ny me three times. and

B1. 


ny me three times.

Dr. 


287


Narr. 

As soon as it was morn - ing, the


T. 

wept, and wept.


B1. 

Dr. 

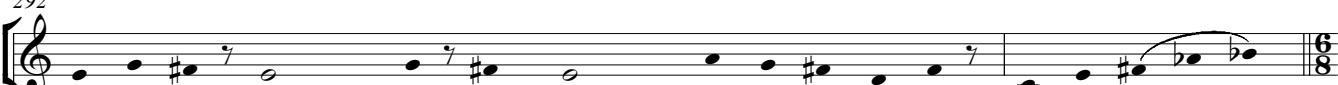
291

Narr. 


chief priests held a con - sul - ta - tion with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They

Dr. 

292

Narr. 

bound Je - sus, led him a - way, and handed him o - ver to Pi - late. Pi - late asked

Dr. 

294  $\text{♩} = 60$   $\text{♩} = 86$

Narr. him, He ans - wered him

T. PILATE (Tune based on "Valet will ich dir geben" by Melchior Teschner)  
Are you the King of the Jews? Are\_ you the King of the Jews? JESUS  
*freely*

B1. You

Dr.

303  $\text{♩} = 60$

Narr. Then the chief priests ac - cused him of ma - ny things. Pi - late asked him a - gain,

T. PILATE  
Have

B1. say — so.

Dr.

308

Narr. But

T. you no ans - wer, no ans - wer? See, — see how ma - ny char - ges they bring a - gainst you.

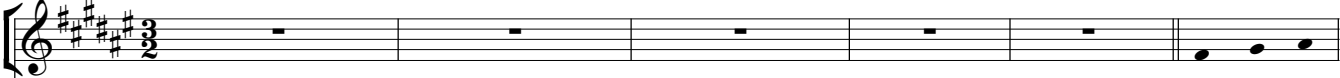
Dr.

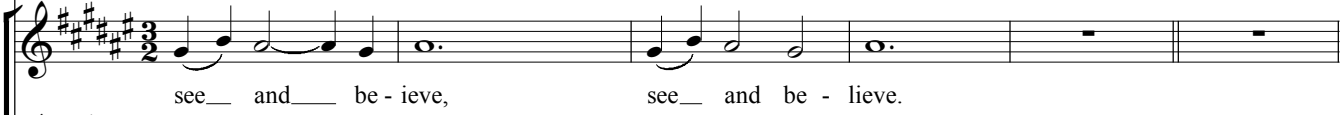
314

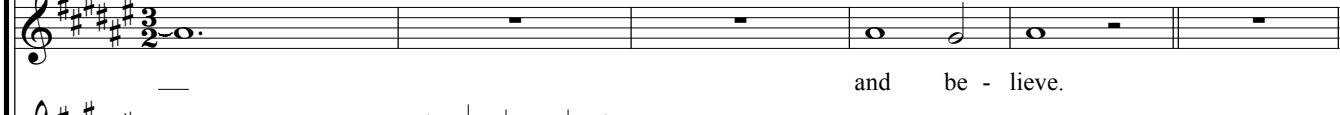
Narr. Jesus made no fur - ther re - ply, so that Pi - late won - dered. Now at the

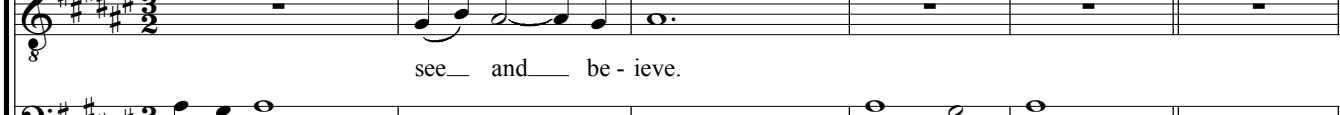
Dr.


446


Narr.  Those who were

S.  see\_ and\_ be - ievē, see\_ and be - lieve.


A.  and be - lieve.

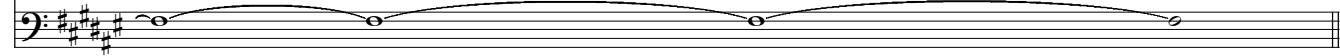
T.  see\_ and\_ be - ievē.

B.  from the cross, and be - lieve.

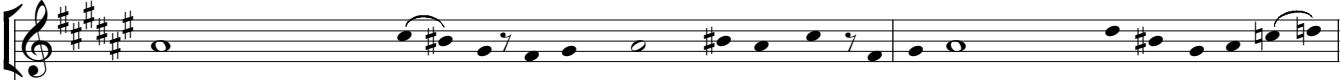
Dr. 


452

Narr.  crucified with him al - so taun - ted him. When it was noon,

Dr. 

453

Narr.  darkness came over the whole earth un-til three in the af - ter-noon. at three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud\_

Dr. 


455  $\text{♩} = 80$


Narr.  voice, which means, "My

B1.  freely **JESUS** (unmetered speech rhythm)  
El - o - i! El - o - i! lema sabachthani?

Dr. 

462

Narr.  God, my God, - why have you for - sa - ken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it they\_ said,

Dr. 

BYSTANDERS (Tune: "Warren")

465 *legato*  
♩ = 76 *mp*

S. Lis - ten, he is call - - - - ing

A. *mp*  
Lis - ten, he is call - - - - ing

T. *mp*  
Li - sten, he is call - ing, call - -

B. *mp*  
Li - sten he is call - ing for

Dr. 8 8 8 8 8

470

Narr. - - - - - And

S. for E - li - - - - ja.

A. for E - - li - - - - ja.

T. - - ing for E - li - - - ja.

B. E - li - - - - - ja.

Dr. 8 8 8 8

474

Narr. someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, say - ing,

Dr. 8 8 8 8

477  $\text{♩} = 76$

Narr. 


SOMEONE (Tune: "Warren") Then

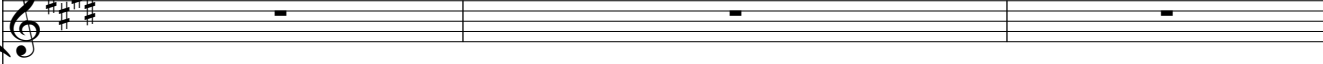
*legato*

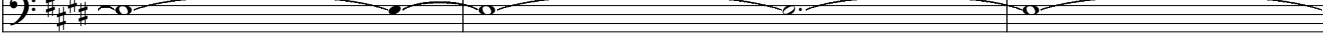
S/A   
 Wait, let us see whe-ther E - li - - ja\_ will take him down.

Dr. 


484


Narr.   
 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed\_ his last. And the

S/A 


Dr. 

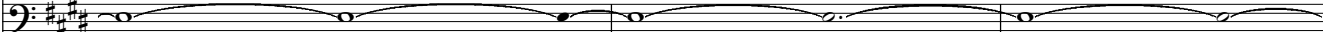
487 *accel., breathless*

Narr.   
 curtain of the tem-ple was torn in two, from top\_ to bot-tom. Now when the cen - tur-ion, who stood


Dr. 

490

Narr.   
 facing him, saw that in this way he cried out and breathed his last, he\_


Dr. 

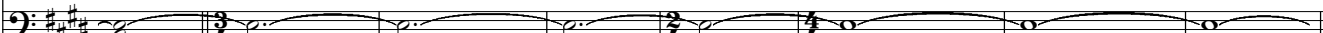
493  $\text{♩} = 90$  **Poco rall.**

Narr. 

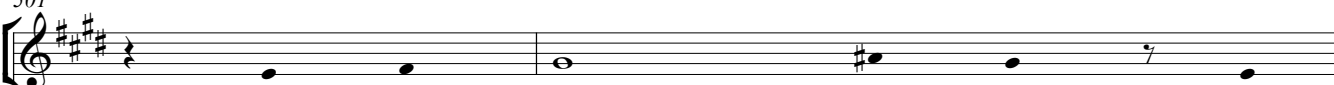
said, **CENTURION**

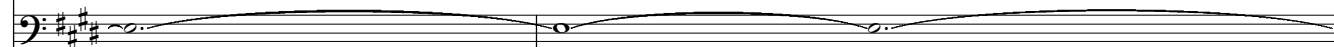
*legato*

B2.   
 Tru - ly, tru - ly this man was the son\_ of God!

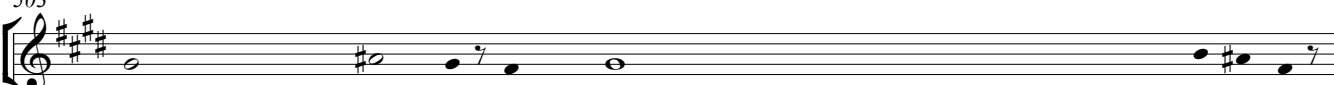
Dr. 

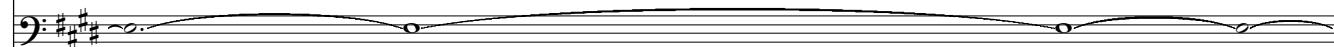
501

Narr.  There were also women looking on from a dis - tance; a -


Dr. 

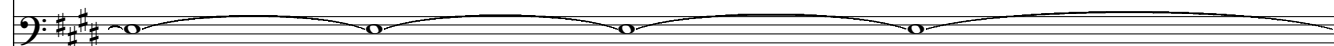
503

Narr.  mong them were Mary Magda - lene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Sa - lo - me.


Dr. 

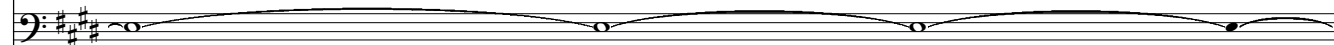
504

Narr.  These used to follow him and pro - vided for him when he was in Ga - li - lee; and


Dr. 


505

Narr.  there were many other women who had come up with him to Je - ru - sa - lem. When


Dr. 

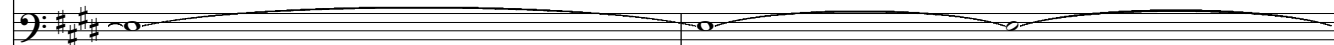
506

Narr.  evening had come, and since it was the day of Pre - par - a - tion, that is, the

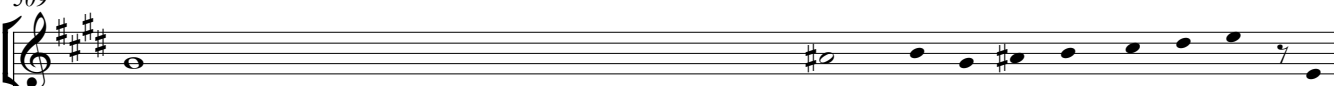
Dr. 

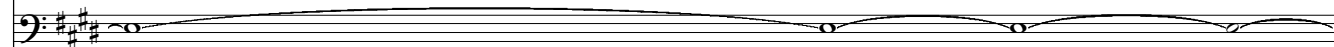
507

Narr.  day before the sab - bath, Joseph of Arimathea, a res -


Dr. 

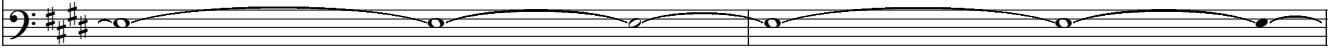
509

Narr.  pected member of the council, who was also himself waiting ex - pectant - ly for the king - dom of God, went

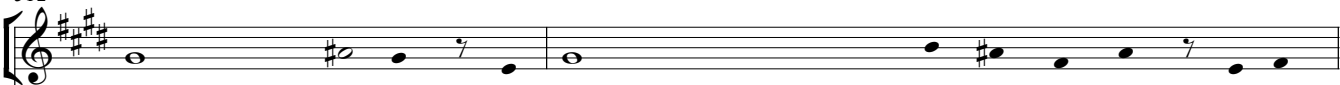
Dr. 

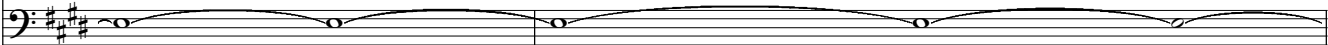
510

Narr.  boldly to Pilate and asked for the bo - dy of Je - sus. Then Pilate wondered if he were al - read - y dead; and


Dr. 

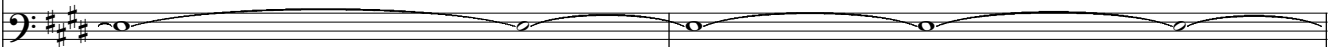
512

Narr.  summoning the cen - turi - on, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he


Dr. 

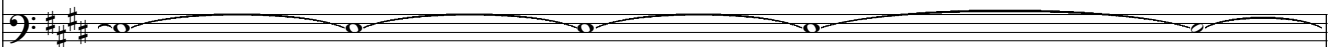
514

Narr.  learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the bo - dy to Jo - seph. Then


Dr. 

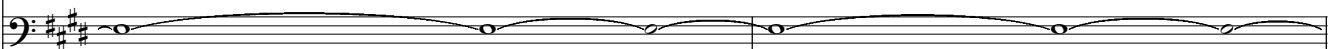
516

Narr.  Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the bo - dy, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and


Dr. 

517

Narr.  laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Ma - ry

Dr. 

519

Narr.  Magdalene and Mary the mo - ther of Joses saw where the bo - - - dy was laid. *rall.*

Dr. 