

WHO WILL BE A WITNESS?

SATB Voices with Piano

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Dan Davison

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



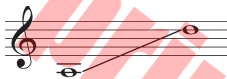
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Ranges:

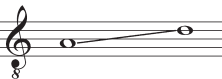
Soprano



Alto



Tenor



Bass



Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx. 2:33
*Difficulty: Moderate

BriLee Music
the Voice of Choral Music

Note from the Arranger

Who Will Be a Witness is a spiritual that grew out of the American slave tradition. For many years, slaves were only allowed to assemble for worship separately from whites, and since most slaves could not read, they created their own music and memorized it. The memorizing of the music often helped the slaves to remember various Bible stories such as the story of Methuselah or the story of Sampson. Although the songs were sung under poor conditions, the spirituals that came from this time period are treasured today.

Today's choir members should pay special attention to articulations in this piece. Whenever an accent is shown, the singers should start the note powerfully, and then decay to a softer dynamic very quickly. When staccatos are shown, do not think of the notes as being short or chopped, but rather "detached" from one another.

Also, soft dynamics in a rhythmic piece like this generally need special treatment. Don't think of the "piano" marking as soft, rather, as "intense," or better yet, "held back" with much energy. When choir members sing softly, but with great energy and strength, the resulting sound gives the audience a feeling of excitement.

In this fast, rhythmic song, the piano plays the part of a drum set. The constant eighth notes fulfill the same role as a ride cymbal in a trap set. Likewise, loud repeated notes, such as those in m. 63, bear a resemblance to the pounding of a snare drum. All drummers know how to "fill." The basic idea is to insert interesting sounds whenever the choir is resting, or even holding a long note. With this in mind, the accompanist has license to bring out the piano part whenever the choir is holding a note or resting.

About the Arranger

Dan Davison has been the Choir Director at Ballou Junior High in Puyallup, Washington since 1979. In addition to the four choir classes at the school, Dan also directs an after-school Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

Dan was born in 1956 in Sacramento, California, but has lived in the greater Seattle area since 1965. Since 1979, he has resided in Puyallup, Washington with his wife, Cathy, who is also an educator. He attended public schools in the Bellevue School District and then attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington where he received his Bachelor's degree, studying under Maurice Skones. He continued his education with a Master's in Music from Western Washington University, studying with Bruce Pullan.

Who Will Be a Witness?

for SATB Voices with Piano

3

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Dan Davison

Piano

$\text{♩} = 160$

f

Ped. as necessary

Tenor
p

Bass
p

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit - ness

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit - ness

p

8 for my Lord?_ 9 Who will be a wit-ness? 10 Who__ will be a wit-ness?

for my Lord?_ Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness?

11 **Soprano** 12 **A** *mf*

Who will be a wit-ness? Who

Alto *mf*

Who will be a wit-ness? Who

Tenor *mf*

Who will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _ Who will be a wit-ness? Who

Bass *mf*

Who will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _ Who will be a wit-ness? Who

A *mf*

14 15 16

— will be a wit-ness? Who — will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _

— will be a wit-ness? Who — will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _

— will be a wit-ness? Who — will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _

— will be a wit-ness? Who — will be a wit - ness for my Lord? _

17 18 19 *f*

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who will be a wit - ness

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who will be a wit - ness

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who will be a wit - ness

Who will be a wit-ness? Who__ will be a wit-ness? Who will be a wit - ness

f

f

f

f

20 21 22 *mp*

for my Lord?_ You

for my Lord?_ You

for my Lord?_ You

for my Lord?_ You

mp

mp

B

24

25

read in the Bi-ble and you un-der - stand, -

read in the Bi-ble and you un-der - stand, -

mp

Me - thu - s'lah was the —

mp

Me - thu - s'lah was the —

B*mp*

26

27

28

mf

He lived nine hun-dred and six - ty nine. —

mf

He lived nine hun-dred and six - ty nine. —

mf

old - est man. —

He

mf

old - est man. —

He

29 30 *fp* 31 *f*

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

fp *f*

fp *f*

fp *f*

fp *f*

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

died and went to Heav-en, Lord, in due time. Meth-

[C] 33 34 35

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

[C]

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth -

36 37 38

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - s'lah was a wit - ness

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness. Meth - u - s'lah was a wit - ness

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness.

u - sa - lah was a wit - ness.

39 40 41

for my Lord. —

for my Lord. —

mp Sam - son was the man. Sam - son was the man. *p* Sam -

mp Sam - son was the man. Sam - son was the man. *p* Sam -

mp *p*

48 49 *mf* 50

went out to bat - tle, and one time, - he killed a - bout a thou-sand of the

went out to bat - tle, and one time, - he killed a - bout a thou-sand of the

- son was the man and one time, - he killed a - bout a thou-sand of the

- son was the man and one time, - he killed a - bout a thou-sand of the

mf

51 52 *mp* * (Soprano 1 optional)

fp Phil - i - stine. De - li - lah fooled Sam - son

fp Phil - i - stine. De - li - lah fooled Sam - son

fp Phil - i - stine.

fp Phil - i - stine.

f *mp*

54 55 56

this we know... For the Bi - ble tells us so... She

this we know... For the Bi - ble tells us so... She

57 58 59

shaved off his head just as clean as your hand, -

shaved off his head just as clean as your hand, -

mp and his strength be-came the same as an - y

mp and his strength be-came the same as an - y

and his strength be-came the same as an - y

60 61 62 63

nat - u - ral man, nat - u - ral man.

nat - u - ral man, nat - u - ral man.

65 66 67

F *f* Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness.

f Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness.

f Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness.

f Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness.

F

The musical score is for a piece in G major and 3/4 time. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'nat - u - ral man, nat - u - ral man.' and 'Sam - son was a wit - ness.' The score includes measures 60-63 and 65-67. A large red watermark 'For Promotional Use Only' is overlaid on the score.

68 69 70

Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness

Sam - son was a wit - ness. Sam - son was a wit - ness

Sam - son was a wit - ness.

Sam - son was a wit - ness.

71 72 73

for my Lord. I will be a wit - ness.

for my Lord. I will be a wit - ness.

mp Who will be a wit - ness? Who

mp Who will be a wit - ness? Who

mp

74 75 76

I ___ will be a wit - ness. I ___

I ___ will be a wit - ness. I ___

___ will be a wit - ness? Who ___ will be a wit - ness?

___ will be a wit - ness? Who ___ will be a wit - ness?

77 *rit.* 78 ♩ = 68 **f** **G** 80

___ will be a wit - nes. ___ My soul is a wit-ness for my

___ will be a wit - nes. ___ My soul is a wit-ness for my

My soul is a wit-ness for my

My soul is a wit-ness for my

rit. ♩ = 68 **G**

(use pedal)

81 $\text{♩} = 160$ 82 83 84

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____ Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____ Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____ Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____ Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. _____

$\text{♩} = 160$

85 86 87 $\text{♩} = 68$ *rit.* 88 *ff* 89

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. My soul is a wit-ness for my Lord!

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. My soul is a wit-ness for my Lord!

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. My soul is a wit-ness for my Lord!

Lord, I'll be a wit - ness. My soul is a wit-ness for my Lord!

$\text{♩} = 68$ *rit.* *ff*

(use pedal)

BriLee Music

the Voice of Choral Music

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