

Revelation

Revelation is a dramatic work for SSATBB chorus, based on a text from the book of “Revelation”. It is one of the most controversial and difficult descriptions of apocalyptic events, with many very diverse interpretations. But one thing is certain – the severity and cataclysmic nature of the events.

This musical work isolates one of the “apocalyptic sequences” in the book – the sounding of seven trumpets. Each of the first six trumpets heralds a single event, with each being more horrific than the one before, leading to the seventh trumpet – the “final” and most dramatic event.

<u>SEVEN ANGELS</u>	<u>SEVEN TRUMPETS</u>	<u>SEVEN JUDGEMENTS</u>
First trumpet	Land	Hail and fire thrown down on the earth
Second trumpet	Sea	Huge mountain ablaze with fire is thrown into the sea; Fire and the tsunami destroys all ships and sea creatures
Third trumpet	Rivers & springs	All water on the earth turns bitter, undrinkable
Fourth trumpet	Heavens	Moon and stars turn black
Fifth trumpet (first woe*)	Abyss	Out of the earth comes locusts like horses with human faces and teeth like scorpions; the sky blackens
Sixth trumpet (second woe*)	Death	One third of humans are destroyed
Seventh trumpet	Final Triumph	The heavenly kingdom is established

*woe – sign of great trouble

Rehearsal notes:

The musical statement, “Consonants are for drama and vowels are for beauty”, certainly holds true in this work. The way a word is emphasized, elongated, shortened, stricken, consonant-driven, or vowel-stressed, has everything to do with the meaning of the word and/or phrase. The collaborative pianist is, artistically and compositionally, always equal to the voices, but in this work, the pianist is often the primary focus. (This is like unto the importance of the piano in *Dies Irae* or *Lamentations of Jeremiah* – two other works I have written).

“Tell the story.” Bring the audience into the drama with each announcement of the trumpet.

About the composer:

Z. Randall Stroope is an America composer and conductor. His composition teachers were Cecil Effinger and Normand Lockwood, both students of the famous French teacher/composer Nadia Boulanger (student of Gabriel Fauré). Randall has over 200 compositions in print, ranging from solo vocal, instrumental, and choral works. He is also the artistic director/conductor of two summer music festivals in Europe. He has conducted in 25 countries, is an honorary member of the Italian Choral Directors Association, has conducted service music for masses at The Vatican twelve times, and conducted in various entities in the United States, including 40 performances at Carnegie Hall. Randall has a home/music studio on Merritt Island, Florida, and one in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Website - www.zrstroope.com

Other recent Alliance publications by Z. Randall Stroope:

And Sure Stars Shining – SATB with piano (AMP 1085), or SSA with piano (AMP 1084)

Canto que amabas – SATB with piano (AMP 1158), or SSA with piano (AMP 1165)

Consecrate the Place and Day – SATB with piano 4-hands or with brass (AMP1057)

Dies Irae – SATB with piano (AMP 1090), TBB with piano (AMP 0616), or SSA with piano (AMP 0575)

Inscription on a Seashell – SATB a cappella (AMP 1169)