

Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth

There was a moment in time when the temporal and the eternal came together in the dimension of space and time - a moment when the mortal and the Immortal stood face to face – a moment when the wisdom of this world, so grounded in the absolutes of empirical evidence, was finally confounded by the unsubstantiated absolute certainty of the miraculous.

The Glory that had departed after the tragic betrayal in the Garden, at the dawn of human history, was about to return – and the glory of the Lord was about to be revealed – the Glory of the One and Only who was coming from the Father, full of grace and truth. The night Heaven touches earth.

This is a musical that celebrates Redemption. It is a reflection, a celebration, an adulation and a proclamation. This is not an exercise in style and form – it is an offering in Spirit and Truth. I have tried to keep the concept of Heaven actually coming down to earth, alive in the narrative and in many of the lyrics throughout the musical. That long forgotten essence of Eden has returned with the coming of the Savior. We can once again behold His glory – in fact, we can hardly look away.

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I wanted to start quietly. Jay wanted crickets. We opted for quiet crickets. I love the opening narrative and the beautiful melody Jay wrote to usher in the warmth and wonder of what God is about to do. You might consider teaching this simple chorus to your congregation in the weeks preceding the musical. Make sure your Worship Leader or Soloist is invested in this simple melody. It should be communicated, not sung. The message of the song is far more important here than the ability of the singer.

The People Who Walk Now in Darkness

There were those then – and there are those now who simply are blind and cannot see the Light of the glory of the Gospel. This song vividly portrays that idea. As well, the DVD gives a haunting picture of this.

NOTE: The next three songs deal with the shepherds and the angels. They are all very different stylistically and I think they add a distinctive voice to the message of the musical.

Tonight

We love this song by Gloria and Benjy Gaither. This will be a choir favorite. Benjy gave us a chorus that really lets the choir sing with great energy. The lyric is what you'd expect from Gloria. We're glad to finally put this song in a musical – it was a wonderful inclusion.

Sing Gloria!

I've made a pretty good career of writing new lyrics to classic Christmas melodies. This melody is the familiar Fum, Fum, Fum. I admit I had a little fun with the lyric – especially when breaking up the word, "Glo – ri – a!" But it's delightful to sing and Jay's classical setting adds to the whole experience!

Listen to the Angels Singin'

Just in case we left anybody out – we also included Bill Gaither's track to *Listen to the Angels Singin'*. On the DVD we depicted children getting dressed and trying to rehearse a Nativity scene at church. It is very tender and humorous and I am sure will bring a lot of memories back to a lot of people. This is fun to sing and has a very animated trio on the verses.

Lullaby at the Manger

We asked our friend Rick Vale to write a Joseph and Mary duet for this musical. He has an incredible gift for dramatic songs and settings. When we first heard this song, we asked everyone on our staff to stop what they were doing and come to the music room. I wanted every one of them – and now all of you to experience this beautiful offering from this gifted writer.

Follow the Light

Jay and I love this song. The message is obvious – the music is up and joyous – and the soloist and choir really have a chance to cut loose here. No holding back . . . Follow the Light!

Why?

This is the question that has always wreathed the Christmas story for me. I accept the miraculous. I believe that Christ is the Son of the Living God. I accept it all. What I will never understand is . . . why. This song is a heartfelt extension of my own pilgrimage through the unfathomable love of God.

Still He Came

This is one of my favorite songs that Jay and I have written. This is probably the only answer I will ever have to the *Why* song. The answer being . . . regardless of the WHY . . . He still came. This is a big choir ballad that Jay and I have been known for. We love to write them – but mostly – we love to hear you sing them!

His Love Reaching / Offering

This is the section that we always refer to as the “So What?” section. So what does this mean to me? It means everything. It means a meaningful, purposeful life. It means communion with the Almighty. It means being forgiven and restored. It means a home in Heaven. This is a time of invitation and worship and celebration. Heaven did indeed touch earth – now is the time to let our praise ring right back up to Heaven.

Merry Christmas!
Randy Vader