TRIUMPH FAITH

THE MUSICAL STORY OF ESTHER

Music by Mark Blankenship Book and Lyrics by Mark Cabaniss

Arranged by Mark Blankenship and Jay Rouse

Orchestrations by Camp Kirkland

Performance time: Approximately 45 minutes

Also available:

Listening CD	MG1201	JMG1201
InstruTrax CD	MG1202	JMG1202
Orchestration CD-Rom	MG1203	JMG1203
RehearsalTrax CD	MG1204	JMG1204
Preview Pack	MG1205	JMG1205
Drama Companion/Production Guide		

Orchestration Instrumentation:

Flute; Oboe; Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon; Trumpet 1 & 2; Horn 1 & 2; Trombone 1 & 2; Percussion; Harp; Rhythm/Piano; Violin 1 & 2; Viola; Cello; String Bass



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FOREWORD

The dynamic story of Queen Esther has been told countless times. *Triumph of Faith* presents it in a creative "in concert" format. This allows the full impact of the message and drama of the story, while making it easily prepared and presented. The score's style ranges from tender to triumphant, along with a chilling comedic character song. The result is an unforgettable experience capturing the breadth and depth of this timeless biblical story which is as relevant today as ever, and will never grow old.

— The Publisher

CAST

Esther Mordecai Haman King Ahasuerus Narrator One Narrator Two The Choir

PRODUCTION NOTES

The actors/narrators can be placed downstage in front of the choir with lecterns or music stands. Or divide them to the left and right of the choir. For those organizations desiring a fully dramatized production with memorized lines, costumes, etc., a Drama Companion/Production Guide (JMG1206) by Nan Allen is offered separately.

DEVOTIONS

Free downloadable devotions centered around *Triumph of Faith* are available for those organizations desiring to deepen their choir and/or church's knowledge about the story of Queen Esther and messages therein. Go to www.jubilatemusic.com/downloads and enter JMG1200 in the search window.

Triumph of Faith: The Musical Story of Esther received its world premiere at Carnegie Hall on July 10th, 2022.

PROLOGUE

Esther, Mordecai, Ahasuerus, Haman and Choir

Arranged by
MARK BLANKENSHIP
and JAY ROUSE

Words and Music by MARK BLANKENSHIP and MARK CABANISS







spare my life, my family, and the lives of my people! (ESTHER and the KING remain frozen)





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NARRATOR 1: Our story begins as morning dawns in Susa. King Ahasuerus has sponsored a week-long party of laughing, dancing, and drinking to display his great wealth, power, and glory. But

now the king has a problem with his queen, Vashti.

HAMAN: My king...although you have sent for Queen Vashti to come to you so that you may

display her beauty before your party guests, she refuses your order.

AHASUERUS: (with a quiet rage) How dare her. Saying no to me can mean her immediate execution if I

so desire.

HAMAN: It's not only the king she has insulted, it's all of us, leaders and people alike in all of your

provinces. The word will get out: "Did you hear the latest about Queen Vashti? The King ordered her to be brought to him and she refused!" When the women of your empire hear

this, they'll also start treating their husbands with contempt.

AHASUERUS: These women could be out of control. I cannot have a country of angry women who don't

know their place.

HAMAN: If the king agrees, let him pronounce a royal ruling that Vashti is permanently forbidden

from the king's presence. And then the king will give her position to a woman who knows

her place.

NARRATOR 2: The king liked this idea. Therefore, Queen Vashti was immediately banned, and the quest

began to find her replacement. The king gathered his attendants to give them the plan.

AHASUERUS: Let a search begin throughout all my provinces for beautiful young women. The ones

chosen will be treated with oils and perfumes. And the woman who pleases me most will

win this contest, and be made queen.

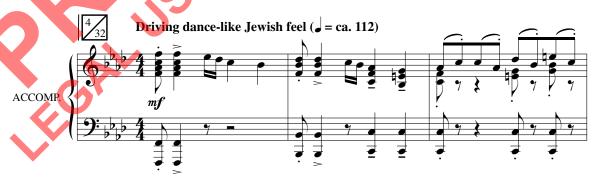
NARRATOR 1: And so it was. This ancient "star search" began. All beautiful and single young women

were found and summoned to Susa, including Esther. Excitement and anticipation ruled

the day.

WHO WILL BE THE CHOSEN ONE?

Mordecai and Choir





NARRATOR 1: Mordecai was Hadassah's cousin, and had raised her since she was an orphan. In order to hide the fact that Hadassah was Jewish in a dangerous political climate toward the Jewish people, she had chosen the name Esther, which means "star...brilliant and shining."

MORDECAI: Esther, you must not reveal your family background or race. My ancestors were persecuted and thrown into exile. We must protect ourselves.

ESTHER: Yes, Mordecai. I understand. I will do as you say.

NARRATOR 2: One day, Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate where he overheard a conversation between two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance. They were plotting to kill King Ahasuerus and overthrow the government. Mordecai immediately got word to Esther.

ESTHER: My king...there is a plot to kill you. Two of your guards, Bigthana and Teresh, have devised this deed. I have learned of this plan through one of the citizens of your kingdom, Mordecai.

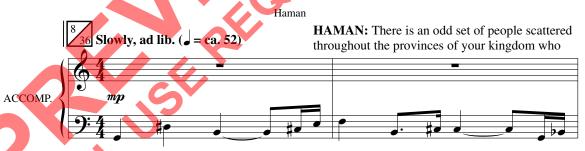
NARRATOR 1: The plan was investigated immediately and found to be true. The two guards were executed. The incident was recorded in the King's Historical Record, crediting Mordecai with saving the king's life.

NARRATOR 2: Sometime later, Ahasuerus promoted Haman...making him the highest-ranking official in the government. Because of this promotion, the king decreed that public recognition was necessary for Haman. An outward display of humility and submission was required of all those whenever they saw him. Immediately, all began to bow in Haman's presence. Everyone except Mordecai.

MORDECAI: I will only bow and worship the One True God. I will stand on that truth even if it means death.

NARRATOR 1: Haman's hate toward Mordecai was rooted in a long history of hate and violence between Persians and Jews. Haman learned Mordecai was Jewish. He went to the king. He wanted vengeance toward Mordecai and the Jewish people. He was furious. But he contained his rage with a genocidal bribe.

HAMAN'S PLAN



don't fit in. Their customs and ways are different from those of everybody else. Worse, they disregard the king's laws. They're an affront to your power; the king shouldn't put up with them.



RIGHT-HAND MAN

Haman and Choir



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ALWAYS IN YOUR CARE

Esther and Choir



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(JMG1200)

RIGHT-HAND MAN

(Reprise)

Haman and Choir





NARRATOR 1: It is still the eve of the second banquet. Haman is on top of the world knowing Mordecai will be executed soon. But Esther and Mordecai, still separated by their proximity and position in Susa, are praying alone. In this ninth hour, will God perform the needed miracle?

DARKNESS INTO DAWN







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EPILOGUE

with I Believe, I Will Stand (Reprise)

Soloists and Choir



* Words: William Cowper, 1731-1800

Music: Mark Blankenship

