TEACHING TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS By Susan Eernisse

Moses and Me is a delightful children's anthem that allows children to learn and sing about a most beloved character in the Old Testament. They will discover that Moses accepted God's call even though he was unsure of himself and his ability to lead. Many children will relate to Moses on a personal level as they excitedly say the closing response, "Moses...and me!" This will surely become a favorite this choir year. Here are some rehearsal tips to help you in your weekly planning.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The story of God's call to Moses to lead God's people is always popular with children. This anthem addresses the reluctance of Moses to accept God's call, though God persists saying, "Moses, Moses, you are the man." Lead children to understand that God calls each person. Like Moses, we can accept the call even when we are afraid that we aren't good enough. God used Moses to free God's people. God can use us in special ways if we say 'yes' when He calls.

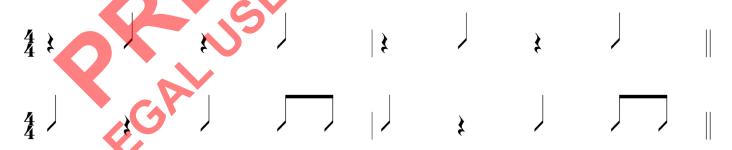
SINGING IN HARMONY

This anthem is intended to be sung in two parts. Most of the division is a back-and-forth conversation between Part I and Part II that is easily managed by all ages. Often when there is 2-part harmony, both parts begin in unison, then divide with one part ascending and the other descending in contrary motion. (Example: meas. 23-24) This should be a successful experience in part-singing for your singers and will build their skill and confidence level. Enlist an adult to lead one part as you lead the other part.

INSTRUMENTS

If possible, include instrumentalists on the percussion and oboe parts. The oboe lends a middle eastern, Egyptian flavor to the minor key. It is also a great opportunity to introduce children to the oboe, perhaps for the first time. Invite the oboist to be a Mystery Musician guest in a rehearsal. Ask them to demonstrate the various sounds of the oboe and how it is played.

If you want to have children play the tambourine and hand drum parts, but they lack the skill or experience to play the parts written in the anthem, you can give them a simpler, repeated pattern to play throughout. Here is one suggestion – tambourine on top, hand drum below.



Teach the parts to all the children as a fun rhythm activity using the *Moses and Me* Percussion visual. Print one for each choir member, or one for group display. The children can play along with the anthem demo. If you don't have enough instruments, simply snap on the tambourine part and pat on the hand drum part. Select two children if you choose to use this simpler version in the performance. Enlist an adult to lead the percussion group if desired.

REHEARSAL TIP

Playing percussion along with the demo is a fun way to introduce the anthem to the choir at the first rehearsal!

MOSES AND ME

for 2-part voices and piano with optional oboe, tambourine, hand drum and InstruTrax CD*

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