

Production Guide for

The Living Light

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A DRAMATIC MUSICAL EXPERIENCE FOR CHRISTMAS
FOR SATB CHOIR, SPEAKERS AND OPTIONAL SMALL ORCHESTRA

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Welcome!

Even if it has been years since you have put on a Christmas musical, or you've never done one, it is easy to make *The Living Light* come to life in your church with your volunteer musicians and actors or readers. The music and drama are designed to be accessible to any size church, even small ministries or churches with limited rehearsal time and resources.

The musical is about 35 minutes long, and celebrates the birth of Christ while exploring the inner thoughts of the people who participated in or witnessed the miraculous events of the first Christmas. Presented as monologues, characters speak one at a time, in streams of consciousness, eliminating the peril of dependence upon cues or other characters missing a line. This format also provides you with several flexible options for presenting the dramatic portion of this musical: your production can take your congregation back in time to the stable behind the inn and the moments after Jesus' birth, for example, or the characters can be modern representatives of the various eyewitnesses at the manger scene.

There are several options for presenting the drama:

- Dramatic representation of the nativity scene in biblical costumes
- Dramatic re-creation of Baroque and Classical art masterworks of the nativity scene
- Dramatic readings with characters dressed in black
- Readings by one to two readers with simple props or projected pictures/artwork
- Use of the professionally recorded monologues

The music has been written with the volunteer musician in mind and is accessible for any size church, music program, or choir. Even the smallest choir can perfect a meaningful presentation with a minimal investment of time.

There are several ways to approach the music, which is available in both SATB and SAB voicings:

- Accompany with piano and small orchestra
- Accompany with piano plus one or any combination of instruments
- Accompany with piano alone
- Accompany with the professionally recorded, orchestrated accompaniment CD

The piano is the primary instrument in this accompaniment, and has been written to be very pianistic, interpretive, and expressive. It is not a reduction of the orchestration but a lovely accompaniment that works beautifully alone or with one or any combination of instruments.

The unique orchestration includes winds, strings, and light percussion. It provides for maximum flexibility with the instrumentalists you have available. Further, the instrumental parts are well within the abilities of the volunteer musician and have been designed to help you recruit your young people who play an instrument or adults who may have played or taken lessons years ago.

However you choose to present *The Living Light*, this guide is designed to help you to put on a first-rate production. Included are instructions for every aspect of your production. Just choose which way you wish to present the musical and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me via email at ruthie@ruthie.com. I would be delighted to assist you, or put you in contact with someone who can help you.

God bless you as you prepare *The Living Light*! Please let me know how it goes!

—Ruthie Schram