

How to use the Duncan “Alleluia”

"Alleluia" (Duncan)—printed in Spring 2005 *Leader*—may be taught by rote (WITHOUT printed music) with one or more persons lining out each part. The tenor/bass leader begins by singing the first line of the men’s part, then invites the men to repeat that line. He sings the second line and invites the men to repeat that line. Then the men begin again and sing their part without stopping. The leader may wish to show the direction of each line by moving his hand down or up, by small or large interval, depending on each pitch.

After the men have learned their part, the alto leader sings the first alto line, inviting altos to repeat after her. She proceeds with the second line and so on, just as the men did.

Finally the soprano part is learned. Now the parts may be put together: men begin by singing their part alone one time, next add altos to tenor/bass and sing one time, next add sopranos and you’ve got it!

Since this teaching style requires several minutes of time (BUT NO MONEY DOWN for reprinting costs) you may want teach the song just BEFORE worship “officially” begins on Easter Day. (On the second and third Sundays you may only need a brief refresher with the men’s part sung through by the leader then repeated by the men, and so on, adding alto and soprano parts until the whole is attained.) This gives the space needed for learning the song and allows worshippers to enter more fully into worship when they are asked to sing it during the service.

As your congregation uses the song throughout the Easter season, you can vary the experience by adding most any type of melodic instrument to each voice part or creating an improvised piano accompaniment to support the singers. You may choose to lead it more slowly or very quickly, or somewhere in between, but always with great joy!