

1 THE RED PLANET

Choral Speaking/Teacher/For Advanced Voice Choirs

THE RED PLANET

Written

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Formatted for Choral Speaking

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This choral speaking script, "The Red Planet" includes a variety of speaker experiences. As in most choral speaking, ALL SPEAKERS speak in unison together. But, in an effort to bring needed variety of sound and a composer's touch to the choral expression of this script, you will find that:

1. ALL VOICES speak in unison together.
2. 4 SOLO SPEAKERS speak special lines. (4 speakers may be used, or solo parts may be divided up to fit your needs).
3. ALL MALE VOICES speak in unison together.
4. ALL FEMALE VOICES speak in unison together.
5. MALE and FEMALE QUARTETS speak separately.

To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the piece as you go. Each underlined word or word-part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout the entire piece during performance.

PLACING OF SPEAKERS ON RISERS

Special attention to placing of speakers on risers is especially important for a visually interesting performance. Some suggestions:

1. Position MALES on one side of risers, FEMALES on the other. OR place MALES in top half section, FEMALES on bottom half. You might ask MALES to wear all of one color (or special costumes which fit the story), and ask FEMALES to wear another color (or special costumes).
2. SOLO SPEAKER lines are often effective coming as a surprise from all sections of the choir, so these speakers may be scattered throughout the choir groupings. However, solo speakers may also be positioned together in the front row or off to one side of the risers.

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PACING

LINE NUMBERING AND SECTIONS

1 MALE VOICES: THE RED PLANET HUNG IN SPACE,

2 SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

3 FEMAL VOICES: CANALS ZIGZAGED IT,

(Pause)

4 HINTING WATER THERE.

5 ALL: YET THIS CLOSEST NEIGHBOUR

6 OF EIGHT PLANETS 'ROUND OUR STAR

7 WAS DEEP AND DISTANT FROM

8 THE THINGS WE SHARE.

9 MALE QUARTET: BUT ONCE, PERHAPS, IN SIXTY THOUSAND

10 YEARS, IT WOULD BE NEAR,

11 IF OVER THIRTY MILLION MILES'

3 THE RED PLANET

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12 NOT FAR AWAY,

13 FEMALE QUARTET: AND THE SECOND BRIGHTEST OBJECT

14 IN THE SKY IT WOULD APPEAR.

15 MARS WOULD HAVE AT LAST

16 COME OUT TO PLAY.

17 ALL: AND EVERY DAY THE SUN WOULD SET

18 AND EVENING WOULD COME BY

19 AND THE NIGHT WOULD FILL WITH MOON

20 AND FILL WITH STARS

21 AND WOULD HAVE ANOTHER PRESENCE

22 IN ITS SKY.

23 AND FOR JUST A MONTH, THE NIGHT

24 WOULD FILL WITH MARS.

25 SOLO 1: YES, MARS DID RISE JUST LIKE THE MOON

26 AND MOUNT THE EVENING'S TIERS

27 SOLO 2: ADDING A CRIMSON LUSTRE TO OUR NIGHT.

28 ALL: EARTH WOULD NOT SEE THIS GLOW AGAIN

29 FOR NEAR THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

30 SOLO 3: WE WERE SO FORTUNATE TO SEE