

NERO

For unison chorus in two groups
two principal solo parts (several notes),
with piano accompaniment and bass and drums ad lib.*

PREVIEW ONLY

Words and Music
PAUL DRAYTON

With steady rhythm

20

25

FULL CHORUS

29 We are the a - ve - rage ci - ti - zens of An - cient Rome. — We sel - dom wash and our

34 hair's ne - ver seen a clean white col - lar and our

39 to - gas tend to fray; you may not like our squa - lour — but we do things in the

44 Ap - pi - an way. — The in - con - ta - rry is our se - cond home,

49 — For we are the a - ve - rage ci - ti - zens — or the plebs — of An - cient Rome.

55 We live in the great - est em - pire on the earth; — It's

61 more than a mil - lion ran - soms would be worth. — But that can ne - ver



66 help you when you earn a hef - ty fine For caus - ing an ob - struction With a

71 cha - ri - ot parked on a yel - low line. The poor man has his troubles from his

76 birth, — Though he lives in an em - pire own - ing more than half of all the earth.

82 My name's Glau - cus — I'm the

SOLO 1

87 mil - ler. — He mix - es bags of saw - dust with his flour.

SOLO 2 (aside)

92 While the rich man loun - ging in his vil - la — Has

FULL CHORUS

97 bread that's ne - ver moul - dy and wine that's ne - ver sour. My name's

SOLO 2

102 Gai - us — I'm the brew - er. — His beer will numb your sen - ses an - y

SOLO 1 (aside)

107 night. So you don't smell the block - age in the sew - er, And you

FULL CHORUS

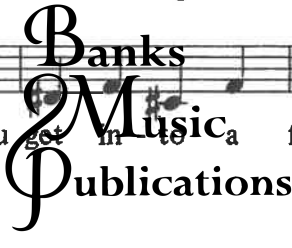
113 don't feel the punch - es when you get in to a fight. We are the a - ver - age

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118 ci-ti-zens of An-cient Rome. We've saved our time and are far from home;

124 For when our lives seemed bo-gus And we felt a tri - fle bored, We

129 tra - ded in our to - gas For a hel - met and a shin - y sword. And

134 then we sailed a way a - cross the foam, to fight for the great-est

139 em - pire that the world has e - ver known. You'd

SOLO 3 *Rather free mp*

145 think that mi - li - t'ry life would ne - ver pall in a gay re - sort in

150 sun - ny Spain or Gaul, but sta - tioned up in Britain In a

155 draughty Ro - man camp, Where the na - tives are un - friend - ly and the weather's clou - dy,

160 cold and damp, Re - mem - ber when you hear the bu - gle call,

rall. In time FULL CHORUS

160 cold and damp, Re - mem - ber when you hear the bu - gle call,

Banks
Music
Publications

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9 ve - ry slim chance of dy - ing in bed at the court of the em - per - or Ne - ro.

13 Each day holds some - thing new - A

17 knife in the ribs or a hem - lock brew - It's bound to be some - one, me or you, At the

21 court of the em - per - or Ne - ro. Ne - ro -

26 Ne - ro when his po - pu - lar ra - ting's down to ze - ro, We'll pre - fer to

30 toe the line. A - tea his bot - tle and drink his wine, For we know he's im - mor - tal,

34 great and di - vine: (It's true!) He as - sures us so! Ne - ro -

38 Ne - ro though he's more over - weigh than the a - ver - age he - ro, We'll sit through each

42 dread - ful song When his lyre is flat and the chords are wrong And its much too loud and

46 much too long, (sigh) And it bores us so. But -

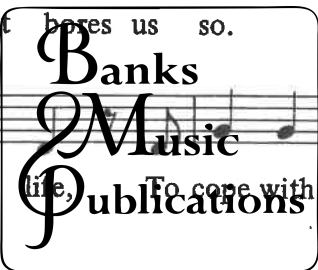
51 Flat - ter - y here is a way of life, To cope with him and his mood - y wife, Who's an -

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55 other dab hand at wiel - ding a knife At the court of the em - per - or Ne - ro.

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59 Work starts as the optional SOLO

63 day be-gins When he asks ad - vice on the la - test sins, Then a game of dice - and

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67 guess who wins, - At the court of the em - per - or Ne - ro. Ne - ro -

71 Ne - ro - The slaves pre - pare such ban - quets here O - be - dient to our

PREVIEW ONLY

75 ev - ery whim, But the ca - ba - ret's all w - ith - out a - ny - thing new, So the food's de - licious but the

79 jokes are grim, (groan!) They're such an - cient gags. Ne - ro -

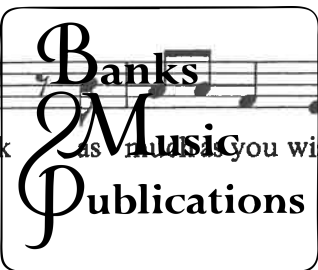
83 Ne - ro - We po - lite - ly shed a soul - ful tear, ev - ery verse of his

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87 la - test id - yll, Ac - companied on the Ro - man fid - dle, Then we all pull crackers with

91 jokes in the mid - dle, (ha! ha!) or with La - tin tags.

95 Eat, drink as much as you wish, But watch for poi - son in the



99 meat or fish or powdered glass in your corn-flake dish. At the court of the em-pe-ror

103 Ne - ro, -- the court of the em-pe-ror Ne - ro, -- the court of the most un-

107 ho - ly Ro - man em - pe-ror, -- Ne - ro Cae - sar.

p *pp* *mf* *f* *sub. p*

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With a slow beat

4 NARRATOR *mp*

Un-der the ground out-

4 side the ci - ty: Strange go - ings on ___ we've heard -- Women and men whom we

8 ought to pi - ty for the way that they're suf - fer - ing with - out a word in the name of Christ.

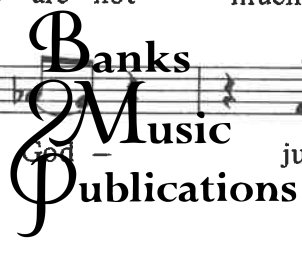
12 In word and in deed they're a

16 cu - rious breed, Their be - liefs -- are not much fun. They'd like us to heed an e-

20 co - no - my creed: One *p* *rall.* **2** just one!

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CHORUS 2 (Christians)

A little faster

mp



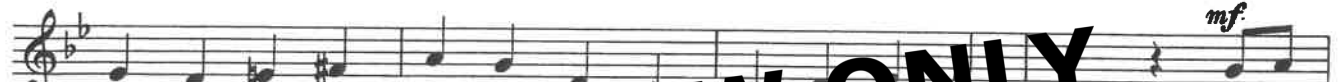
Here in the cat-a-combs We hide from the



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30 day, Hop - ing, pray - ing, try - ing not to be-



34 tray The trust our lead-er plac'd a-bove he died. He was

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38 cru - ci - fied, In bit - ter pain. Thus the son of



43 God was cruel - ly slain to be a sac - ri - fice to save us from our

PREVIEW ONLY



47 sins. Then he rose a - gain And went on high; There - fore



52 though our bo - dies still must die, Our souls will dwell with him in



56 ev - er - last - ing light - lux non - po - tu - a - ce - at

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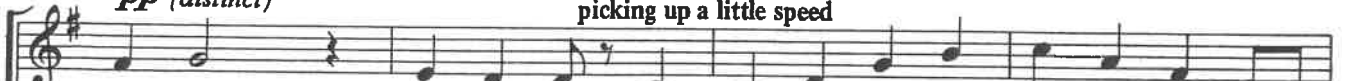


61 no - bis, lu - ce - at no - bis, no - - - - -

CHORUS I (Courtiers)

pp (distinct)

picking up a little speed



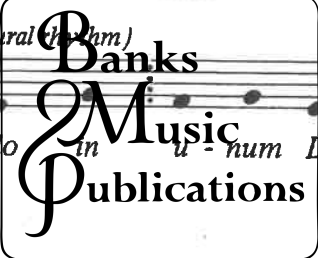
Ne - ro - - Ne - ro it's time we were much more se - vere ov - er

CHORUS 2 (Christians)

mp (natural *ch. 1st*)



66 bis. Cre - do in u - num De - - - um,



optional
SOLO
f

cresc.

all the harm these Christ-ians do; They scorn our di-vi-ni-ties ev - en you - They

70 *pat - - - - rem om - ni - po - ten - - - - - tem,*

kill their wives and child - ren too - *fz* *pp* (whisper) Shh! That's a de-li-cate sub - ject!

74 *fac - - - - tor - - - - - em cae - - - - -*

Not too slow
mf

Their bab - bling seems to in - fect

78 *li - et te - - - - rae.* Here in the ca - ta-combs

Folk who should have more self - re - spect Than to meet with a si - ni - ster,

82 We hide from the day, Ho - ping,

mp

sec - ret sect - And get mixed up with Christ-ians, Get mixed up with

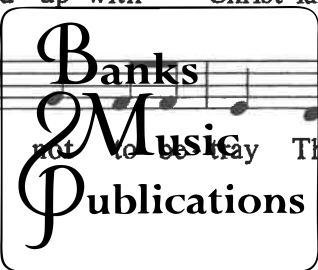
85 Pray - ing, try - ing not to be say The trust our lead - er placed in

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p
 Christ-ians, Get mixed up with pe - cu - li - ar types like Christ-ians,
 us be - fore he died.

pp Christ-ians. *p cresc.* Now, _____ Now you've met some
pp cresc. Now, _____ *ff allarg.* Now, _____ you've met some

With steady rhythm
FULL CHORUS

100 ci - ti - zens rich and poor and short and tall; _____ Some of us ap - pear in

105 Gibbon's 'De - cline and Fall'. _____ May - be you think our man - ners and our

110 streets are a dis - grace, And what we need is plan - ners _____ to

114 come and or - gan - ise the place; *(Sh)* Oh No! We love our cos - mo -

118 po - li - tan ur - ban sprawl, _____ And each man who's a Ro - man will be

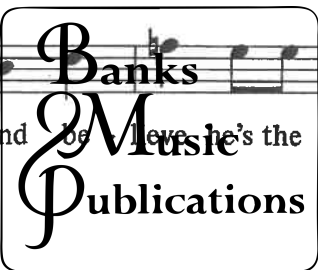
123 proud of being a Ro - man And he's the no - blest Ro - man of them

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PREVIEW ONLY

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127 all. _____

Not too quick

PREVIEW ONLY

p

p NARRATOR (*hushed, expectant*)

5 In the great a - re - na, there's a tense ex - cite - ment in the air. —

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10 _____ Ev - ery - one who's an - y - one and plen - ty more who aren't have gather - ed

15 there. _____ Peo - ple, peo - ple, peo - ple all a -

20 round, from the top dis - s - e - m - ble to stalls, Wait - ing,

PREVIEW ONLY

26 wait - ing, wait - ing for the sound of the bra - zen trum - pet

31 calls That an - nounce _____ the em - per - or, th em - per - or,

PREVIEW ONLY

mp the em - per - or. _____

FULL CHORUS

36 This per - son - al ap - pearance is the rich - est deal he'll ev - er

41 trans - act. Just to give the peo - ple a pre - view of his



46 lat - est song and dance act. *p* Peo-ple, peo-ple,

51 peo - ple who should know say his art is won - der - ful - ly pure:

57 Now we're wait - ing breath - less for the show be - fore its Eu - ro -

62 pe - an tour, So we want an em - per - or, the

67 em - per - or, the em - *Shh! (ad lib.)*

77 *Fast, excited* Some - one's com - ing out on to the stage With a

82 robe and laurel wreath and lyre. *cresc.* Good - ness gra - cious! He doesn't look his age - And up -

86 on his face such trans - cen - den - tal fire! *ff* Such fire! *rall. molto*

92 *Very fast, vulgar* *Hoi!* *SEGUE*

'Soft shoe' style, relaxed *6* NERO *mf*

mf You're gon - na

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5 see my ge - ni - us shine, You're gon - na know I'm tru - ly di - vine,

8 Al-though I on - ly do a few mi - ra - cles a day;

12 And now you see me do - ing my act, You'll ve - ry

15 soon ack - now - ledge the fact A voice like mine would keep the

18 wild - est beast at bay; And my art - is - try is

21 known all ov - er the land (scornful) A thing I can't think you'd un - der - stand -

24 A vul - gar horde like you would scarce - ly know a ly - re -

28 (if you saw one). I'm your god and sa - viour, So be

31 on your best be - ha - viour, And a show like this will drive your cares a - way.

FULL CHORUS (Nero may perform dance routine)

35 *mp* doo doo doo etc. (vocalise)

38

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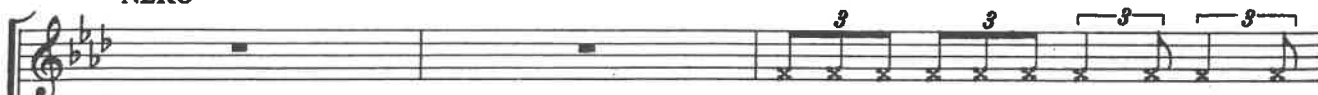
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NERO

(peevishly)

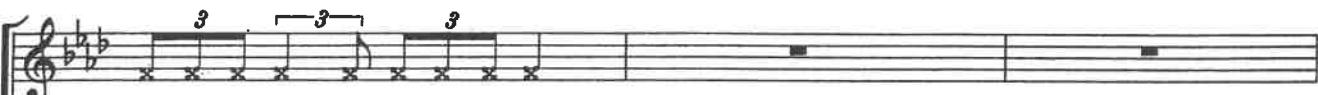


CHORUS

Life at the pa-lace is ra - ther rough, The

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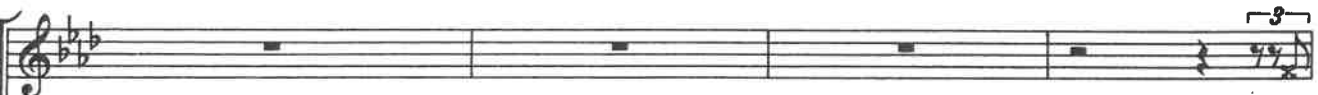
41



ve - ni-son steak is ter-ri - bly tough.

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44



The

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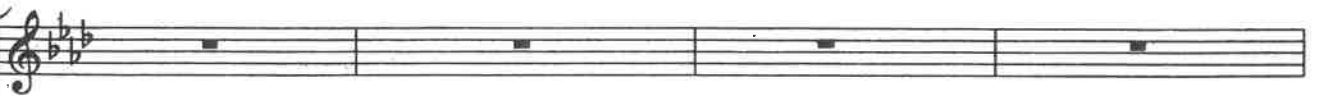
47



slaves just stand a-round and gape and com-plain when I tell them to peel me a grape.

PREVIEW ONLY

51



Ne - ro, -

Ne - ro, -

please, sing us what we came to hear, Oh

53



cresc. poco a poco

PREVIEW ONLY

57 we'll be well and tru - ly smit-ten by the beau-ty of the song you've written.

f *rit.* *ff*

PREVIEW ONLY

61 You're our lord and mas - ter (To de - ny it spells di - sas - ter), So we'd

ff *allarg.*

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65 Just one more chor - us of this: You're gon-na love to hear you sing your lat - est song. —

Really swung

see my ge - ni-us shine, You're gon-na know I'm tru - ly di-vine,

ff

PREVIEW ONLY

69 We_ be-lieve you!

Al-though I on - ly do a few mi - ra-cles a day;

72 We ne - ver doubt - ed! That's more than



And now you see me do-ing my act You'll ve - ry
 76 most of us do! And what a show!

soon ack-now-ledge the fact:— A voice like mine would beo the wild - est beast at
 79 He ought to know!

bay; — And my art - is-try is known all ov - er the land.
 83 And he's not jok - ing!

— A thing I don't think you'd un-der-stand- A vul-gar
 86 We're not sur-— We're just a rab - ble.

horde like you would scarce - ly know a ly - re - (if you saw one).
 89 Oh Yes?



I'm your god and sa - viour, So be on your best be - ha - viour.

93 You're our god and sa - viour, So we're on our best be - ha - viour, And we'd

p subito

Once more with feel - ing! You'd

97 love to hear you sing your lat - est song. Yes, we'd

ff

love to hear me sing my lat - est song!

101 love to hear you sing your lat - est song!

7

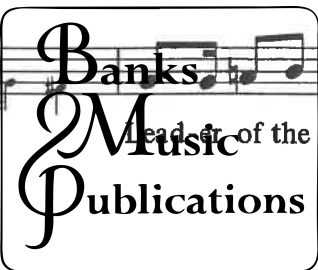
Broadly, imposing

f

What I say to you now the sim - plest a-mong you will

5 fol - low: I stand be - fore you here in the per - son of the god A -

9 pol - lo, leader of the Mu - ses, pa - tron of the arts,



13 *p* Sent down to move your stub-born,sto-ny hearts, *f* And show you that the voice is

PREVIEW ONLY

16 much more might-y than the sword:— For I come a-mong you to

20 win a top va-ri-e-ty a-ward. *Moving on, eager* *mf* My song will up-lift you,

PREVIEW ONLY

25 Bring-ing tears of joy where once was strife; *meno f* So heark-en, While I ex-

28 pound the mysteries of life... *In moderate waltz time, simply* *mp* I

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33 of-ten won-der how the moon keeps float-ing in the sky; It has-n't got a

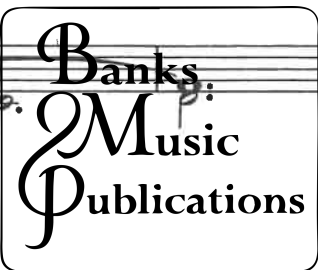
38 pair of wings and so it doesn't fly. I've read some clev-er reas-ons in a

PREVIEW ONLY

43 com-pli-cat-ed book, But how eas-y it would be if they had hung it on a

NERO *mf* hook. Oh—the world is so full of won-ders we can't un-der-stand them all,—

FULL CHORUS *mf* hum



But if Ne - ro had planned them all, Things would work oh so smooth - ly.

52

PREVIEW ONLY

mp
I of - ten won - der how the rain keeps fel - ling from the

56

PREVIEW ONLY

sky; It's done it for so long now it must sure - ly soon run dry. The

60

PREVIEW ONLY

world should have some gut - ters round the edge to catch the rain, Then the gods could pipe it

65

PREVIEW ONLY

up to heav'n and pour it down a - gain. Oh the world is so full of

70

Banks
Music
Publications

mf
Oh the world is so full of

won-ders we can't un-der-stand them all, But if Ne-ro had

74 won-ders we can't un-der-stand them all, But if Ne-ro had

planned them all, things would work oh so smooth-ly. Oh the

77 planned them all, things would work oh so smooth-ly. Oh the

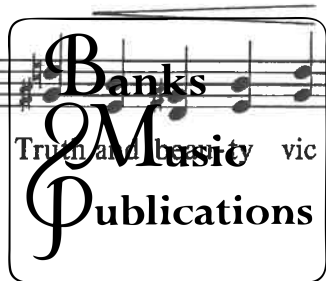
Nero takes up violin and plays (or mimes) the following counter melody. Omit if no violinist is available.

f espress.

81 world is so full of won-ders we can't un-der-stand them all,

84 But if Ne-ro had planned them all, Ev-ry-thing would be

87 glor-ious, Truth and basi-cally vic-tor-ious,



90 With the flame of his wis - dom ev - 'ry - where.

dim. rall. *p* *breve*

PREVIEW ONLY

8

A little faster

NARRATOR (*urgent*)

At that mo - ment a

mf

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4 mes - sen - ger ap - pears, in - ter - rupt - ing Ne - ro and his choir, Sud - den ter - ror

8 sti - fl - ing the cheers As they hear him shout, 'The ci - ty is on fire!'

FULL CHORUS

12 On fire! On fire!

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Let's move out of here be - fore

(anxiously) *poco f*

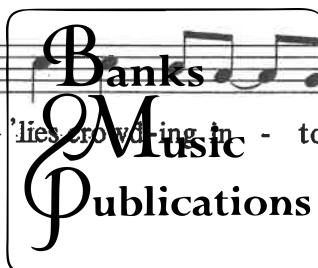
17

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20 things get much too hot: We'll get roast - ed if we stay here as like as not.

23 What looked like the glow of the sun - set in the west Has now turned in - to flick - er - ing

26 flame; Fam - lies crowd - ing in - to the street look so distressed, With





29 child - ren strung be - hind who think this must be some kind of a game.



32 Quick-ly now! We ought to cut through this nar-row street. I can't go an-o - ther step

CHORUS



35 with my ach-ing feet! All the a - ni - mals of the cir - cus have been freed They've



38 bro - ken mad - ness. May - be you'll dis - cov - er an



41 ex - tra turn of speed, For some - one should re - mind you a bear crept up be - hind you just

Nero plays violin (or mimes) mf dolce



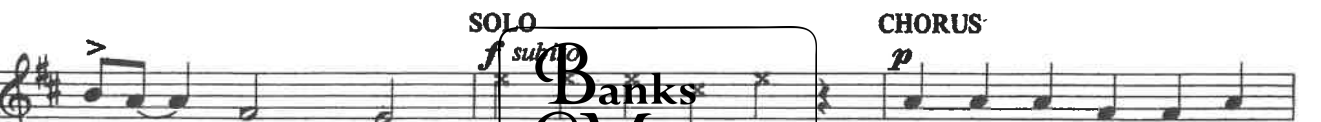
44 then.



CHORUS



48 Now the fire is near - ly on us - we must



51 hur - ry - fast - er. Mind that all is beam! Ev - ery mo - ment brings a

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PREVIEW ONLY

PREVIEW ONLY



54 fresh dis-as - ter. Now our eyes are red and sting-ing_ and we're

57 al - most chok - ing_ Build - ings crash - ing all a - round us, Their wind - ows

60 black and smok - ing. Ne - ro's prob - ably fid - dling a - mong the rub - ble_ now_

63 I was just a boy: My tu - tor taught me
What an em - per - or, he's not fit to gov - ern! And as if we didn't have_

66 all a - bout the glo - rious siege of Troy. I
nough trou - ble_ now_

SOLO (desperately)
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(maniacally exultant)

69 don't care if thou-sands are slight - ly sing - ed on the reels ho - ri - fic - 'ly

CHORUS

Look what's happened to the great e - ter - nal ci - ty. Who - e - ver thought we'd

(fiercely)

72 hurt, For it's time that Rome was the seat of all cor -

see it in this state? Who was the fool that said it was e - ter - nal?

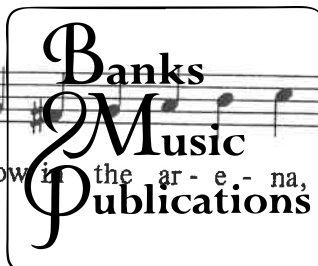
VIOLIN appassionato

75 rup - tion and de - cadence and dirt.

Who - e - ver did was sure - ly tempting fate! Let's move on from here be - fore

78 we're all grilled a - live; This is tor - ture worse than old Ne - ro could con - trive.

81 We came out to see the new show in the ar - e - na, But we've been let down with a



PREVIEW ONLY



84 bump. We'd have liked the eve - ning to be a bit se - re - ner.

PREVIEW ONLY



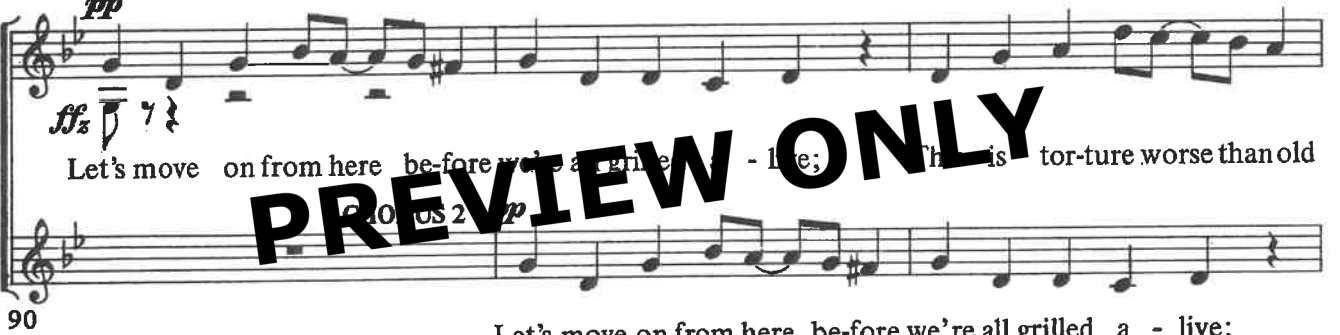
87 Now our nerve's a - qui - ver'cos we must find the ri - ver and jump.

CHORUS 1

(violin tacet)

pp

PREVIEW ONLY



90 Let's move on from here be-fore we're all grilled a - live;

PREVIEW ONLY



93 This is torture worse than old Ne - ro could con - trive. We came out to see the new

PREVIEW ONLY



96 But we've been let down with a bump. We'd have liked the evening to show in the ar - e - na, But we've been let down with a bump.



be a bit se - re - ner. Now our nerve's a - qui - ver 'cos we must find the ri - ver and

99 We'd have liked the eve - ning to be a bit se - re - ner. Now our nerve's a - qui - ver 'cos

jump. We must find the ri - ver and jump. We must find the ri - ver and

102 we must find the ri - ver and jump. We must find the ri - ver and

We must find the ri - ver and jump. off stage loud splash

105 jump. And jump. Jump!

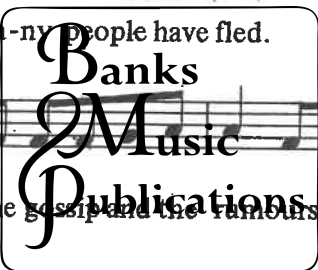
Solemn 9 With a slow beat FULL CHORUS

6 6 6 8 7

pp

11 de-so-late scene. — So ma - ny people have fled. Just smoking ru - ins where their.

15 hou-ses had been, And it's now that the gossip and the rumours spread, Like the flames had done.



19 You'd need a real freak with a

23 lu - na - tic streak To cre - ate - this kind - of mess; There's just one clown who might

27 fire - the town - We r - ived y one guess!

PREVIEW ONLY
10

Boldly, imposing **NERO (vengefully)**

Though we knew that the Christ-ians were set up-on di-vid-ing the
na-tion, We ne - er thought it would sto - to be - gin-ning such a con - fla -

8 gra-tion, Now they must be pun-ished, pen - i-tent or not,

12 Beat-en and cru-ci-fied, their bodies left to rot; You mustn't be de-lu-ded by their

15 out - ward in - no-cence and calm. But I must con-fess their com-

PREVIEW ONLY

19 pos - ure gives me a slight un - eas - y qualm. So we were

23 cru - ci-fied, - In bit - ter pain. And we faced the

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The same speed
CHORUS 2 (Christians) serene

28 wild__ beasts to gain our great-est hap-pi-ness dy-ing for the

PREVIEW ONLY

32 faith. *(fer-ent)* Lux per - pe - tu - a lu - ce - at

36 no - bis, *senza dim.* lu - ce - at no - bis, *molto rall.* no

CHORUS 1 (Courtiers)

pp (distinct)

pick up a little speed

PREVIEW ONLY

Ne - ro - Ne - ro These Christ-ians seem to show no fear; Oh
Ne - ro The show's a flop when they ap - pear; Oh

CHORUS 2 (Christians)

ffp

pp (mp) (natural rhythm)

41 - bis. Ag - - - - -

PREVIEW ONLY

cresc.

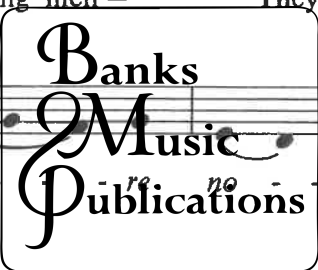
don't you see, they have no guile And the audi-ence just doesn't like their style: When they
what's the use of Christ-ians when They en - joy a stroll in a li - on's den: It an-

45 qui - - - - - di,

PREVIEW ONLY

die then they do it with a bliss - ful smile, Or mum-bling 'Love thy neigh-bour.'
noys the pro-fes-sion-al fight - ing men - They hate non - u - nion la - bour

49 mi - - - se - re - bis! Do - - - - na



1 *mp* 2 *poco rall.* *mf* not too slow

Ne - ro There's in the thing we should add: The

53 no - bis pa - cem. cem. So we were cru-ci-fied,—

mob think Christ - ians aren't too bad, But not say - ing that the em - peror

57 In bit - ter pain. And we

f marcato

Ne-ro's mad, And they hope he's the last of the Cae - sars. They've had e-nough of the

60 faced the wild beasts to gain our great-est hap - pi - ness by

p subito

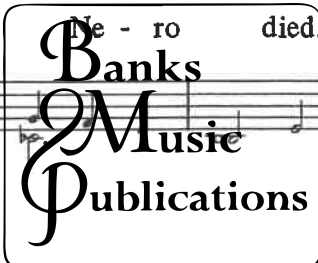
Cae - sars. You have far few-er fol-low-ers than that Je - sus.

64 dy - ing for the faith.

NARRATOR

75 Ne - ro died. There was a

81 re - vo - lu - tion. Su - i - cide



Seemed the best so - lu - tion

rall.

88

With steady rhythm

mf

94

FULL CHORUS

mf

That was the end of

fp

99

104 Ne - ro and his Fate ren - dered un - to Cae - sar Cae - sar's

109 due. The li - ons were hun - gry still And sev - 'ral em - perors did their

114 worst. The Christ - ians were il - le - gal 'til the time of Con - stan -

Banks Music Publications

CHORUS 1

tine the First. With him the empire moved to pas-tures

CHORUS 2

118 tine the First. With

new, And if you were a Christ-ian you'd be

122 him the em-pire moved to pas-tures new, And if you were a

free to be a Christ-ian, And the li-ons got their in-ner-though they

126 Christ-ian you'd be free to be a Christ-ian, And the li-ons got their

looked a lit-tle thin-ner, it is true. The mo-ral

130 din-ner- they were thin-ner, it is true. The mo-ral

we will leave to you!

135 we will leave to you!

