

purple PASSION *the musical*

written by Giga Phillips

purple PASSION concerns the passion of Christ, in particular the last week of his life to his resurrection and appearance to his disciples. It is based on the New Testament and was written as part of the RC churches' in Fleet 'Year of Faith' through drama, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. Although accurate in its historic origins, the script brings in Jewish humour and the story and its characters are continually assessed, provoked and criticised by the additional character of the Devil.

The rehearsals and performances will take place at the Spire Church, South Street, Farnham. Performances will be in the week of Corpus Christi, namely Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st June at 7.30pm, and a matinee at 3.30pm on Saturday 22nd June. Rehearsals start in February, days and times to be decided by the cast.

There are over 60 named parts in the production, most of which have one line of dialogue, but several with extended dialogue and solo songs. We are looking, in particular, for the following soloists. The roles of Jesus and the apostles, most of which were in the 20 - 40s *acting* age bracket. Jesus to wear a wig and beard as commonly depicted. Most men and women will wear biblical costumes and head coverings.

Jesus- 33, charismatic, gentle, loving, impetuous, nervous that his time on earth is coming to an end and self doubting whether He has achieved all his goals; leading to frustration and anger when He realises He has failed. Dominates dialogue.

4 solos, 1 duet, Finale solo followed by chorus. B below C to top F

Devil – male or female. Charismatic and wily. Shows anger, annoyance and disgust at man's weaknesses. A 'loveable rogue'. Main character. 2 'patter song' solos B below middle C to top G. Can be spoken rather than sung, in time with music.

Judas- zealot, dramatic mercurial character, keen to free the Jews from Roman rule, he loves Jesus and hopes that He would be their saviour.

Passionate and powerful solo when he realises that Jesus is not their man and he decides to talk to the authorities. Middle C to top F. Very little dialogue. Disciples' chorus numbers plus 4 chorus numbers.

John- youngest disciple (early 20's), sensitive, Jesus' closest companion. Sings a solo after Jesus' mother's (Mary) solo, promising Christ to take care of her and sad to lose a close friend, as Christ hangs on the cross. E above C to top F

2 disciples' chorus numbers and 6 chorus numbers. Very little dialogue.

Peter- strong character full of bravado that turns to cowardice, shame and despair when he denies Christ.

2 disciples' chorus numbers and 4 chorus numbers. Very little dialogue.

9 disciples- variety of characters, boisterous and quiet, need to portray them as any men today.

2 disciples' chorus numbers and 4 chorus numbers. Very little dialogue.

Caiaphas- High Priest. Strong and forceful. Jealous of Jesus' following and ability to communicate with the common people.

Forceful solo (A below middle C to B flat above) when prompted by the Devil to admit that he is jealous of Christ and wants to get rid of Him. Some dialogue.

Pilate- a strong Roman in charge of Jerusalem and hating every moment of it. Feels lonely and isolated, uncomfortable in his surroundings and predicament. Major character.

Dejected but powerful solo. C# to top F. Dialogue.

Simon of Cyrene- chorus member who gets dragged in to help Christ carry his cross. Sensitive, able bodied. Sympathetic duet with Christ, helping Him carry the cross, imploring Jesus to first accept his help and then pleading for help in the future. 6 chorus numbers. No dialogue. Bottom F to D.

Joseph of Arimathea- older man, a secret disciple of Christ, who offers his freshly prepared tomb for Christ's body.
Sensitive but powerful solo when he escorts Christ's body (carried by others) to the tomb
F# to top G

Mary Mother of Christ – acting age 47. No dialogue just solo in Act 2 which portrays her breaking heart seeing Him on the cross. Portrays shock, horror, anger, despair and collapses. A below middle C to top F.

Mary Magdalene – Very little dialogue. Solo depicting her tragic loss when Christ is in the tomb. Full of anguish and despair at being abandoned. Middle C# to top G. Short duet with Mary Clophas.

Mary Clophas – mother of James & Joseph. Very little dialogue. Solo follows Mary Magdalene's, then a short duet together. Despair as her sons have fled, sweetness in her voice when thinking of Jesus. D to top G.

Chorus- 64 named parts plus children. Most parts have just a line or two. 4 Chorus numbers (SATB). 2 disciples' numbers 1 unison, 1 2-part harmony).

Those interested please contact Giga Phillips (Mrs) on gigusia@btinternet.com