

“Ready for Joy” is a gospel - style song with a classic R&B groove. Singers should feel free to cut loose and have lots of fun, while at the same time being crisp and precise.

In the verse (letter A) although it is marked mp, singers should deliver with plenty of energy and bounce, paying attention to the short scoops indicated. The pickup to each line of the chorus (m. 24, 32) should be very punchy and short. The long chords in the chorus should have plenty of vibrato if possible.

The “breakdown” section at letter E may be extended as desired. Also, there is an option for an ad-lib gospel-style soloist to sing over top of the choir parts, in a call-and-response manner.

Singers who are able may clap on beats 2 and 4. If players are available, the piece works best with a rhythm section, e.g. piano, bass, and drums.

### Vocal colour

The verse should be light, with a bit of breathiness, changing to full voice on the “ready for joy” (m. 14, e.g), moments. The tone in the chorus should be very forward and brassy, with passion and attitude!

### Pronunciation

It is very important in this style to not sing “red-ee”, but a funkier “red-eh” (another way to think of it is that the vowels of each syllable of the word “ready” should sound the same.)

“joy” should have a light diphthong, e.g. “joh-oy”

“I” is closer to a bright “ah”

“I’m” is closer to “ahm”

“my” is closer to “mah”

Brian Tate is an award-winning Vancouver composer/arranger and popular choral clinician and choral director. A frequently commissioned composer, dozens of his choral works are published and his music is performed worldwide. Brian directs Vancouver’s 100-voice City Soul Choir, teaches singing and choir at Studio 58 - Langara College’s professional theatre school - and performs with the world music a cappella vocal trio “TriVo”. Brian has had a lifelong interest in music of the African Diaspora, and has travelled and studied in Cuba and West Africa. He frequently gives choir workshops and is in demand internationally as a clinician and workshop leader. Brian is a passionate advocate of life-long music-making at all levels.

