

Notes on Psalm 77, 78 and 79:

- Instrumentation: Soprano, Tenor, Bass

- Difficulty:

soprano and bass: DKO

Bass: end DKO

- Instrumentation options:

1 / (preferably:) three voices a cappella, one to six voices in each part.

2 / The bass can be replaced or doubled by cello or bassoon.

3 / All three voices can be doubled by instruments (e.g. a string trio), soprano and tenor however can only be doubled, never replaced.

4 / A harpsichord or other keyboard instrument can double all parties; harmonization is not recommended because of the independent melody lines.

5 / Between the different possibilities above may be freely alternated.

- Background:

The tenor always sings the Cantus Firmus from the Souterliedeken. The soprano sings a slightly varied version of the psalm from the corresponding “Hymnal for the Churches”, the usual songbook for Protestant churches. The bass, as free voice, gives harmonic clarification.

- The word accents do not always coincide with the beat. In these cases it is preferable to sing the word accents, regardless of the meter. The soprano sings in modern Dutch, tenor and bass in Medieval Dutch.

- Dynamics and tempo follow the text expression.