The Majesty of the Maker!

SOMETHING REAL
SOMETHING SOLID
WHEN PAIN ENGULFS!

A Celebration of the Creator's Majesty in Music and Drama Book, Music, and Lyrics by Kathy Clapper

The Majesty of the Maker!

A Celebration of the Creator's Majesty in Music and Drama

Company:

Directors: production director, drama director, music director

Actors: Chip Jones (an early thirty-something homicide detective) and Sam Nelson (a mid-fifty-

something astronomer)

Vocalists: soloists, ensembles, choir

Musicians: praise band

Speakers: members of the choir

Video production crew PowerPoint developer

Props: a one-person backpacking tent; cell phone; packing box containing a heavy, old leather-bound

Bible that measures approximately 12½" by 9½" x 4"; hand written letter; mail; magazine

Sections and Musical Numbers:

Jesus is the Creator

The Majesty of the Maker

Son of God's Love

The Creation of the Universe

Fingerprint

The Creation of Man

Family Tree

The Formation of the Earth

The Odds

Sin Enters Creation

Garden of Decision

The Word

The Promise of a New Creation

Christmas Every Day

A Sure Bet

The Creator and Pain, Suffering, and Evil

Secret Lives

I Cry to God

You Are There

Responding to the Creator

A Prayer

Performance:

Length: Approximately 70 minutes.

Music: This document contains lead sheets. Arrange the music for your vocalists and musicians.

The Majesty of the Maker!

Jesus Is the Creator

Music: The Majesty of the Maker, page 4

(Sung in awe of the Creator's majesty and power. Lyrics on PowerPoint are superimposed on awe-inspiring photos of creation illustrating the lyrics.)

Speakers:

Jesus is the image of the invisible God The firstborn over all creation For by Jesus all things were created Things in heaven And on earth

Visible

And invisible

Whether thrones

Or powers

Or rulers

Or authorities

All things were created by Jesus

And for him

He is before all things

And in Jesus

All things hold together

Music: Son of God's Love, page 7

(The tone of music changes from awe to joyous praise. Lyrics are on PowerPoint.)

Music for this section is on pages 4 - 8. Book for the next section is on page 9.

The Majesty of the Maker

Psalm 104







Son of God's Love

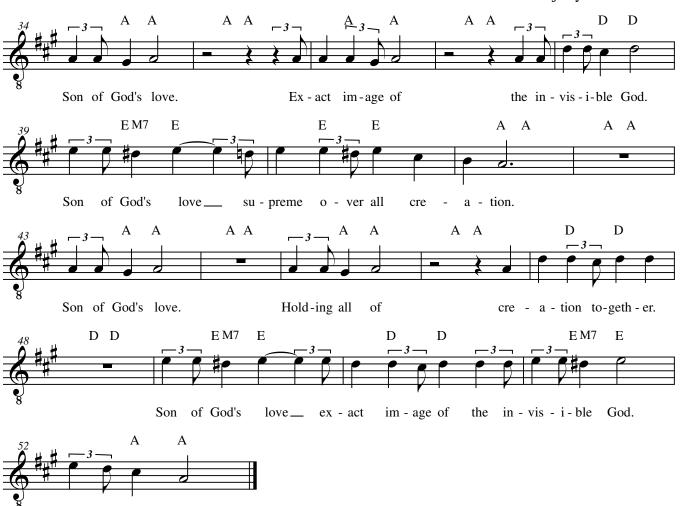
Colossians 1:15-17



Son

of God's

love.



The Creation of the Universe

Video: A short humorous video showing Chip trying to set up a borrowed tent in a strong wind. He forgot to bring stakes and tent poles. He sleeps under a brilliant starry night.

Drama: Sam is on stage. Chip enters with Sam's tent slung over his shoulder.

Sam: Hey, Chip. Did you and Marcy have that baby yet?

Chip: Not yet, Sam. Soon we hope. You'll be among the first to know.

Sam: So you actually took one last solo camping trip?

Chip: Last weekend. Marcy insisted I go. Preparation for fatherhood or something like that.

Sam: No!

Chip: In my case, yes. And I made a stupid mistake. I left your tent poles at home.

Sam: Making mistakes does go hand in hand with being a dad.

Chip: I'm right on target.

Sam: Did you ever get my tent set up so you could sleep in it?

Chip: No. I had to sleep in the open, in the wind. But I was in awe of the night sky. I understand why you became an astronomer. You tell me that the heavens declare the glory of God. They sure are inspiring.

Sam: So the Creator used your mistake to show you his glory?

Chip: Well, um, the night sky is pretty impressive.

Sam: Did you know that setting up a tent so you can sleep in it is a lot like setting up a universe so you can live it?

Chip: You're kidding!

Sam: Both have to be stretched out. Thousands of years ago Old Testament writers said that God stretches out the heavens like a tent. Astronomers have discovered that this is true.

Chip: The Bible said it before astronomers discovered it?

Sam: Yes. And this self-stretching property of the universe has to be exquisitely fine-tuned for life to exist anywhere, at any time in the universe. It's the most extreme fine tuning in all of nature.

Music: Fingerprint, page 10

(Lyrics on PowerPoint are superimposed on awe inspiring images of stars. Speakers quote the Bible verses about God stretching out the heavens as indicated in the song.)

Drama:

Chip (Chip's cell phone rings, he answers, listens, then): Marcy thinks she's in labor! I gotta go. (Chip runs off with the tent.)

Sam: Chip, my tent?

Speakers (to drumbeat, words on PowerPoint):

How to set up a tent that you can live in:

- 1. Get a tent.
- 2. Unroll it and stretch it out.
- 3. Give it structure (stakes, poles, ropes).

How to set up a universe that you can live in:

- 1. Create the space-time fabric of the universe.
- 2. Uncurl it and expand it at exactly the right rate.

If you are off by one part in 10 to the 120th power (10^{120}) — that's 10 with 120 zeros after it — you will not be able to live in it!

3. Give it structure (galaxies, stars, planets, moons).

Music for this section is on pages 10 - 13. Book for the next section is on page 14.

Fingerprint

Isaiah 40:21-28









The Creation of Man

Video / Music combined: Video dramatizes the lyrics of the song. Music can be recorded on video or performed live. Lyrics may be sung or spoken. Granddad's voice has a slight tremor to it.

After his son's birth Chip inherits the Jones' family Bible. Video shows Chip getting the mail, opening up a package containing a letter and old Bible, reading the letter, looking at the Bible, putting it aside to read his science magazine, then amazement to read how man's history as revealed by DNA mirrors the Genesis creation account of man, and finally opening the Bible to Genesis 1.

Music: Family Tree, page 15

Music for this section is on pages 15 - 17. Book for the next section is on page 18.

Family Tree

Genesis 2:7-25



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The Formation of the Earth

Drama: Sam on stage, Chip enters with Sam's tent.

Sam: Congratulations Chip. Marcy and the baby doing OK?

Chip: Doing great, healthy and well. Losing sleep, though. Justin's got day and night mixed up. We've seen plenty of stars this week.

Sam: Maybe he'll be an astronomer like your grandfather. No? A detective like you?

Chip: Whatever he does, he'll be a star in my book. You know, it's partly because of Granddad that I wanted to see you today.

Sam: He was an amazing man. He would have loved to have seen his only great grandchild.

Chip: He sure would. I...I got a letter from him yesterday.

Sam: How is that possible? I spoke at his funeral several years ago.

Chip: Nine years last month. Granddad wanted me to have the heirloom family Bible when my first son was born. His letter came with the Bible. It's got me rethinking the story of Adam and Eve in light of what DNA shows about man's history.

Sam: Mitochondrial and Y chromosomal DNA. They read like Genesis.

Chip: That occurred to me too. But I don't want Justin to grow up believing creation myths. What do you think of the Genesis creation account? Isn't it just a fable?

Sam: Genesis, Job, and the Psalms all describe the formation of the earth. They teach that early earth was covered with water and earth was surrounded by thick clouds. We've made a lot of strides in understanding planet formation and the history of planet earth. What we've learned reads like Genesis 1. Primordial earth was covered with water and had an atmosphere so thick that sunlight could not penetrate to the ocean.

Chip: But Genesis says that God created plants before the sun.

Sam: Chip, you're a detective. You ask eye witnesses, "Where were you? What did you see?" Then you go to where they were to see if their story rings true. From their location, what could be seen, what couldn't be seen? Genesis tells us where the Creator was and what he saw before he started to make earth habitable.

Chip: Refresh me.

Sam: The Spirit of God was on the surface of the waters that covered planet earth. The earth below him was wet. God saw darkness; the sky above him was dark. Job tells us why the sky was dark. Clouds covered earth like a garment, wrapping it in thick darkness. You couldn't see sunlight because of the thickness of the clouds. The first creation miracle transformed earth's atmosphere so that a little bit of sunlight could reach the surface of the ocean where God's Spirit was working. When we ask the eye-witness to creation where he was and what he saw, the order of the creation miracles in Genesis reads like the history of planet earth.

Music: The Odds, page 19

(Lyrics on PowerPoint are superimposed on photos illustrating the lyrics.)

Speakers (words only, PowerPoint has both words and math): What are the odds of correctly picking and ordering 11 creation events? The earth was wet 11; The sky was dark 11x10; A little light from the sun 11x10x9; Rain clouds formed 11x10x9x8; Land rose out of the water 11x10x9x8x7; Green plants grew 11x10x9x8x7x6; Sun finally appeared 11x10x9x8x7x6x5; Creatures that play in the sea 11x10x9x8x7x6x5x4; Birds that fly in the air 11x10x9x8x7x6x5x4x3; Animals you might tame and animals you can keep 11x10x9x8x7x6x5x4x3x2; A man and a woman 11x10x9x8x7x6x5x4x3x2x1 = 39,916,800! The odds are one in 40,000,000! Twenty-five heads in a row are $\frac{1}{2}x\frac{1}{2}$ twenty-five times or one chance in 34,000,000!

Music for this section is on pages 19 - 21. Book for the next section is on page 22.

The Odds

Genesis 1







Sin Enters Creation

Drama: Sam and Chip are on stage; they continue their conversation.

Chip: Let me see if I'm tracking here. First, the Bible said the universe is being stretched out long before you astronomers discovered it. And the rate of stretching has to be unbelievably fine tuned for life to exist. Second, man's DNA history looks surprisingly like the Genesis creation account of man. Third, it's highly improbable that Moses would be able to pick eleven creation events and put them in the right order. But if we treat the Spirit of God like an eye witness, asking where he was and what he could and couldn't see when he was about to transform the earth, then Moses gets it right. Sam (nods): Right.

Chip: OK. Maybe I can use Genesis to teach Justin about creation. But what about a talking snake and Eve eating an apple? How am I going to explain that to him? Isn't that an allegory?

Sam: No, it's about trust; trust in the Creator who gave his children an aboudance of everything they needed for life and then said no to one deadly, but very attractive thing. Did they trust him or think he was holding out on them?

Chip: They thought God was holding out on them. I suppose that Justin will feel the same way about me one day.

Sam: You want to steer him away from things that will harm him?

Chip: Absolutely. I love him. I see the sordid side of life on my job. Some things that seem so attractive have horrible consequences.

Sam: And if you ask him not to do those things?

Chip: Asking won't be enough. He has to trust and respect me.

Sam: The Creator wants us to trust and respect him, too. But trust has to be genuine. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place. It was also a dangerous place. God planted a deadly tree in the middle of the Garden and told man not to eat its fruit. God permitted the evil one to enter the Garden. The evil one told Adam that God was holding out on him. The fruit of the tree was safe to eat and it was in Adam's best interest to eat it.

Chip: Ok.

Sam: Out of trust and respect for his Creator, man could obey God's command and have life. Or man could rebel and eat the fruit. If he did, he would experience death. It was a real choice for a real Adam and Eve with real staggering consequences.

Chip: But why would God allow dangerous things in the Garden in the first place?

Sam: I can think of several reasons. The Creator had given his children an abundance of everything they needed for life. Based on the weight of evidence man had to decide if the Creator was trustworthy. Death is irreversible. The danger showed the seriousness of not trusting God. Also, God allowed evil to enter creation so he could conquer it.

Chip: I see the results of evil every day. I can assure you that God has not eliminated evil.

Sam: Not yet. That means that every person since Adam lives in a Garden of Decision. Evil offers us something deadly, telling us it's desirable and good. Every day we see the results of man's rebellion. But evil doesn't have the last word. The Creator entered his creation and faced a deadly tree and the evil one.

Music: Garden of Decision, page 23

(Lyrics are on PowerPoint.)

Music: *The Word*, page 26 (Lyrics are on PowerPoint.)

Music for this section is on pages 23 - 28. Book for the next section is on page 29.

Garden of Decision

Matthew 26:48-60 & Genesis 3:15







The Word

John 1:1-18







The Promise of a New Creation

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Chip: You know, one of the reasons I took that solo camping trip was to get my head on straight. I'm responsible for raising a child. Yet the world he will inherit looks frightening.

Sam: God isn't going to change this world and make it a paradise to ease our parenting responsibilities. He's not going to reform this world. His plan is to rescue us from this world.

Chip: What do you mean?

Sam: The Creator loves us so much that he entered the world, becoming a man. His love for us is so great that he willingly died to rescue us from death. Because he rose from the dead he has the power to offer us life. To those who receive him, who believe in him, he gives the right to be called his children. Whoever believes in him will have eternal life, inheriting a New Creation, a New Heaven and a New Earth—a place where there is no evil, pain, suffering, or death, and will have a resurrected body—a body that will never grow old, get sick, or die.

Music: Christmas Every Day, page 30

(Lyrics are superimposed on photos of Christmas decorations and wrapped gifts.)

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Chip: Sam, people I work with say if the thought of heaven comforts you, that's OK for you. But they see it as a carrot dangling just beyond reach to get people to behave.

Sam: The Creator says his promises can be tested.

Chip: You can test God's promise of heaven?

Sam: Yes, and not just his promise of resurrection and a New Creation, but all of his promises. You can test them against this current creation. God says his promises are as unchanging as the fixed laws of this present heaven and earth.

Chip: Give me an example.

Sam: OK. Scientists have identified dozens of fundamental physical constants. According to God, to bet that any of them would change would be like betting that the Creator would change his mind and renege on his promises. One of the fixed laws of heaven and earth is the force of gravity. Would you bet me five dollars that the force of gravity will be different twelve months from now?

Chip: Not me. But if I did, how could we prove who won the bet?

Sam: In 1969 the Apollo 11 astronauts put laser light reflectors on the moon. We've been measuring the force of gravity since then using data from the reflectors.

Chip: Oh! And what does the data show?

Sam: The force of gravity is extremely stable. It's constant to within one part in a trillion per year.

Chip: I wouldn't put a nickel on that bet. The odds are in your favor.

Sam: The odds are in the Creator's favor. His promise of a New Creation is a sure bet.

Music: A Sure Bet, page 34

(Lyrics are on PowerPoint. A Sure Bet has an optional repeat. While musicians are playing the repeat PowerPoint lists some of the fundamental physical constants. See

http://www.physlink.com/reference/physicalconstants.cfm or

http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Constants/Table/allascii.txt

Music for this section is on pages 30 - 36. Book for the next section is on page 37.

Christmas Every Day

Revelation 21:1-5

Lead Sheet Kathy Clapper Moderate swing = 120Βþ $D \, m$ $D \, m$ Вβ New - born King._ An - gels sing.. Christ - mas won - der - land. Dm $G \, m$ $A \, m \,$ GmGmGmA m Mer - ry gen - tle - men. Make a list. Check it twice. Eve-ry-one, ____ naugh-ty ____ and nice Βþ Βþ D_m Βþ Dm F A m D m _ longs for a place where it's Christ - mas eve-ry day of the year._ \mathbf{C} F F F \mathbf{C} A m \mathbf{C} A m Come the her - ald an - gels Come to the place where Christ is sing. Βþ Βþ F GmDm eve - ry day of the year.___ King. It's the place where it's Christ - mas A m DmΒþ D_m God rest ye mer - ry gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may. __ Re-.3 — D m Dm $D\,m$ DmD m Dm-3mem - ber ___ heav'n and earth must pass a-way to make room for the place where it's Christ -Βþ Βþ Βþ F Dm \mathbf{C} F Gmeve - ry day of the year.__ Joy, joy, mas







A Sure Bet

Jeremiah 33:25-26

Lead Sheet Kathy Clapper Barn Dance = 100Εþ Εþ eve - ry prom - ise that God makes comes Prom-is-es, prom-is - es, Aþ If he'll do His true. he says it, then it. word is A۶ Βþ fixed, that's all there's to it. Eve-ry prom-ise that God makes comes true. Prom-is-es, prom-is -Εþ A۶ eve-ry prom-ise that God makes stands Has-n't hap-pened yet? es, fast. A^{\flat} Вβ bet! Eve - ry prom - ise that God makes stands fast. As fixed as his laws of Εþ When God earth. makes prom - ise, heav - en and a Aþ A۶ this is what it's worth: as un-chang-ing as the speed of light in a vac-'um or the force of grav-i- \mathbf{C} m $\mathbf{C}\,\mathbf{m}$ \mathbf{C} m $\mathbf{C}\,\mathbf{m}$

ty. As sure as day fol-lows night fol-lows day fol-lows night fol-lows night fol-lows





The Creator and Pain, Suffering, and Evil

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Sam: The Creator has left abundant evidence in his creation that he exists and can be trusted. Chip: Atheists are very vocal in disagreeing with that. And people are buying it. If I remember right, Richard Dawkins' book The God Delusion got as high as #4 on a New York Times best seller list. Sam: To support his atheism Dawkins has to suppress the implications of design. Twenty years ago he wrote that "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose." Anthony Flew on the other hand followed where the evidence for design leads. Have you read his book, There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed his Mind?

Music: *Secret Lives*, page 38 (Lyrics are on PowerPoint.)

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Chip: I agree, the world looks designed. But sometimes it's hard to see a purpose. I can't shield Justin from what I do. I investigate murders. What I see makes belief in God so hard.

Sam: You raise a crucial issue that Christians have to address.

Chip: I want to be able to answer Justin's "Why?" questions about pain and suffering. They are sure to come up. What do I say when he says that it is not right, not fair, that a child was murdered? And asks me why God let it happen.

Sam: I'm not sure you can give an answer that will satisfy him. But you can be there for him. You can show Justin that you love him, that what he says and thinks is important to you, and that he can trust you when life falls apart. Chip, do you remember the story of Job from the Old Testament? Job lost it all, his wealth, children, health, reputation, and happiness. Why would a just, righteous, and loving God let this happen?

Chip: Exactly!

Music: I Cry to God, page 40

(Job has a raw quality to his voice. Lyrics are on PowerPoint. Speakers say lyrics that are not attached to a melody as indicated in the song.)

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Chip: Look, God didn't tell Job why this happened. He didn't offer an explanation.

Sam: You're right. The Creator didn't answer Job's questions. He gave Job something more important than answers. God gave himself. He was there for Job in the loss, pain, and suffering. Job's anger at God didn't put God off. God listened to Job's deep anguish and was there for him.

Chip: But God didn't prevent bad things from happening in the first place. Job didn't deserve what he got. Then, when God finally spoke to Job, he didn't comfort him; he didn't take away Job's pain. Job expected God to exonerate him. God didn't do that. Why?

Sam: Maybe the "Why?" questions are not as important as the "Who?" questions.

Chip: The "Who?" questions?

Sam: "Who?" questions about God. Is there a Creator? Who is he? Can I know him? Where is he when I hurt? Does he listen? Does he understand? Does he care? The Bible claims that the Creator became a man. That he lived, was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. He experienced pain and suffering. He understands our pain and suffering. He offers to forgive our rebellion. And he wants to give us himself.

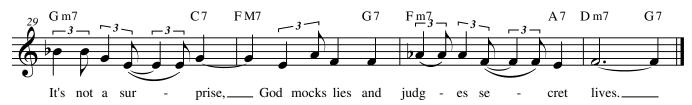
Music: *You Are There*, page 43 (Lyrics are on PowerPoint.)

Music for this section is on pages 38 - 45. Book for the next section is on page 46.

Secret Lives

Romans 1:18-20

Lead Sheet Kathy Clapper Moderate Swing J = 100C M7 A7 D7 C M7 A7 G7 by what Chil - dren know that_ God is real___ _ con - vinced they_ G7Gm7**C**7 FM7 Am7G7 $_{\Delta}$ D m7 $F \underline{m}_{3}^{7}$ __ see and feel. Grown - ups con - coct ____ pub - lic lies to jus - ti - fy se cret _gD m7 G7C M7 A7 D7 G7C M7 A7 lives. Truth of man's Mak - er_ Man sees de-sign, is in - nate. ___ but __ D m7 G7Gm7**C**7 FM7 G7calls it fate.____ Man el - e - vates luck_ of the draw to C sus4 Dm7G7 Cm(maj7) is an - gry __ when man ___ fab - ri - cate gods made of straw.__ God Em7 Α7 knew of his Cre - a - tor ____ from his __ sup-press - es truth. Man youth. So it comes A7 G7D7 Em7 __ as no sur-prise that God mocks pub-lic lies and judg-es se cret lives.. ₂₅ C M7 A7 D7 G7 CM7 A7 D m7G7-3Hold - ing a world view ____ that is Lies, se - cret lives, gods ____ made of straw. flawed.



I Cry to God

Job







Then God restored everything Job lost and gave him more children.

You Are There

Psalm 139







Responding to the Creator

Drama: Sam and Chip resume their conversation.

Chip: Look, I'm still having a problem with Job. God's questions seem off the wall and insensitive. *Sam*: They seem that way, don't they? Job was a blameless and upright man, a man who feared God and shunned evil. But like Adam and Eve, Job thought that God was holding out on him. That God was perverting justice by letting him suffer. Job was even willing to condemn God in order to justify himself.

Chip: That's exactly what we think today; that God is holding out on us. Good people condemn God to justify themselves. But God's questions?

Sam: They were designed to show Job that he didn't know what he thought he knew. Not about nature; not about his circumstances. He was missing critical background information. Job also didn't know that the Creator would willingly and personally experience injustice. Now, when you compare the Creator's response to evil and injustice with Job's, what stands out?

Chip: I...I'd say Job responded out of self-interest. Jesus responded to meet the needs of others. *Sam*: Chip, to be honest, when I am treated unfairly, I usually respond like Job did. I wallow in my circumstances, insisting that God is unfair, that he owes me an explanation and should make things right.

Chip: Yeah, I know exactly what you mean.

Sam: I make wrong assumptions about the Creator's goodness, love, and justice.

Chip: But how do we know which assumptions about God are right? I've been looking for answers the last few years. There are so many world views, so many different ways of looking at the world. They all can't be right.

Sam: That's true! They offer conflicting answers to life's questions.

Chip: No kidding! Atheism and some religions like Buddhism say there is no god or if he exists he is unknowable. Some world views say there are many gods. Some say everything is god or god is in everything. Some say there is only one God and he is separate from everything. But then they disagree with each other about who God is.

Sam: World views can be tested against reality. A world view is true if its claims accurately describe the nature of the world. And like the force of gravity, it's true for everyone, even for people who reject it. I submit that the Bible presents a world view that makes sense of the nature of man, of justice and fairness, of evil, of pain and suffering, of the natural world.

Chip: Do you know what convinced Granddad that the Bible is true?

Sam: He told me it was when scientists found evidence that the universe had a beginning.

Chip: And if the universe had a beginning, then the first verse in the Bible is true! He told me that if he could trust the first verse in the Bible, he could trust the rest. Did you know that he predicted that someday we would find evidence for Adam and Eve?

Sam: I didn't know! He was right.

Chip: In high school I learned there is no evidence for Adam and Eve. So I drifted away from what Granddad believed. But now with Justin, well, I want answers I can pass on. Then I was overwhelmed by the night sky and the possibility of a Creator. Yet I couldn't accept a God who tells creation myths. Now I see the Bible is right about creation. And like Granddad I can trust the rest, too. And I...I'm amazed, humbled that God suffered and died to rescue a rebel like me. That he offers me forgiveness. I can trust God, knowing he personally experienced injustice, pain and suffering, and died to give me life. I'm in awe of the majesty of the Maker. I'm stunned by how the heavens declare the glory of God. I want my life to do the same.

Music: A Prayer, page 47

(Lyrics on PowerPoint are superimposed on majestic photos of the night sky.)

Music for this section is on pages 47 - 48.

A Prayer

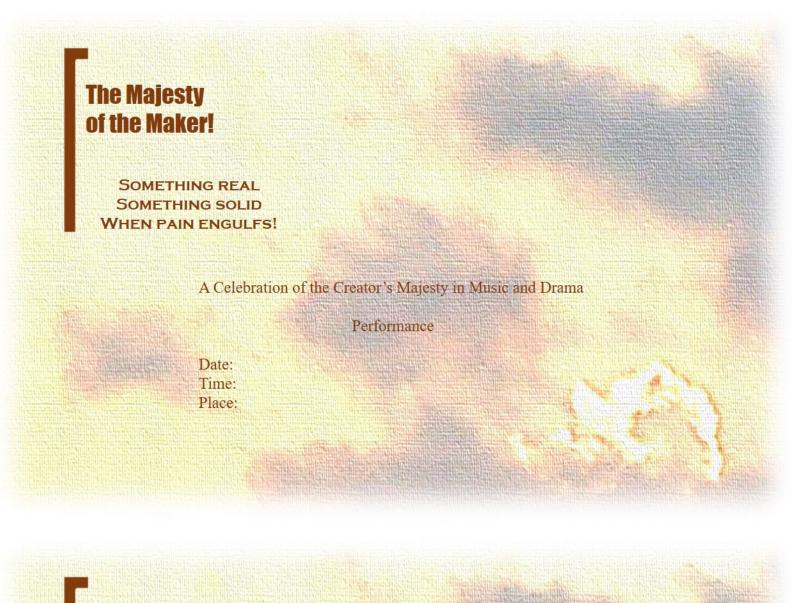
Psalm 19:1-3, 14



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The End





SOMETHING REAL SOMETHING SOLID WHEN PAIN ENGULFS! 13 creation passages from the Bible - 13 songs in the Musical

The Bible's claims about creation match reality:

- The Creation Psalm matches reality.
- The Cause of the universe lies outside of the universe.
- Life cannot exist unless the universe is stretched out.
- The Genesis creation account matches reality.
- The Genesis creation account of mankind matches reality.

The Bible's claims about God and people match reality:

- People are immeasurably valuable yet deeply flawed.
- If the Creator became a man, he would be like Jesus.
- Jesus promises to meet the deepest longings of the heart.
- The Creator's promises can be tested.
- We instinctively know that the Creator exists.

The Creator can be trusted when pain engulfs:

- The Creator is good, loving, and just.
- The Creator knows and loves us.
- Creation shows the existence and grandeur of God.