

# Were You There?

SATB

African American Spiritual

Arr by Linda Chapman and  
Bonnie Heidenreich

*p* Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my

*mp*

This system contains the first two staves of music. The vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, followed by the lyrics 'Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my'. The piano accompaniment starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh! \_\_\_\_\_

13

This system contains the third and fourth staves. The vocal line continues with 'Lord?' followed by a blank line, then 'Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?' followed by another blank line, and ends with 'Oh!' followed by a blank line. A measure number '13' is placed in a box above the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment pattern.

Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves. The vocal line begins with 'Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.' followed by a blank line, then 'Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment pattern.

Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they

24

Were you there? Ooh, \_\_\_\_\_

This system contains the seventh, eighth, and ninth staves. The vocal line begins with 'Lord?' followed by a blank line, then 'Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?' followed by a blank line, and ends with 'Were you there when they'. A measure number '24' is placed in a box above the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment pattern.

33

(Ooh) \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there?  
 pierced Him in the side? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ Ooh \_\_\_\_\_  
 Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble,

(Ooh) \_\_\_\_\_  
 trem-ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they cru-ci-fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were you there? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you

Sop 1 *mf*

Sop 2, Alto\*

*mf*

45

there when the sun re-fused to shine? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when the sun re-fused to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there?

\*The Alto part can be sung by tenors.

shine? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there? Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there?

SA  
TB  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ Ooh \_\_\_\_\_  
Were you there when they

(Ooh) \_\_\_\_\_ Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ Some - times it  
 laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they laid Him in the

tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ *f* Were you

*cresc.*

there when He rose up from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when He rose up from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

*a tempo*

107 *rit.*

Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ Some-times I feel like shout - ing Glo - ry! Glo - ry!

*rit.*

*ff* *molto rit.*

Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

*Solo*

*ff rit.* *p molto rit.* *pp*

"Were you there?" That is the question asked over and over in this heartfelt, soul-wrenching spiritual. It is a question filled with awe, disbelief, deep mourning and a profound sense of love. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Certainly not in mortality, but perhaps in the heavenly courts we were allowed to watch as the One who would save us all from the darkness of sin was slain. Surely tears flowed at His agony and sorrow surrounded us at His pain. How could we not always remember, somewhere deep in our souls, this pivotal point in the history of eternity? Were you there?