

Paul

Paul

Introduction

Paul is written for a Narrator, a "choral speaking" group of 4 people, a stage chorus from which a number of soloists are taken and the one main solo part of Paul.

Throughout this script, where words are to be spoken by all four members of the Group, the word **Group** is used. Where one or more members of the Group speak alone, this is indicated by "**Group: 1**", "**Group: 2**", etc.

Following this script is the music, written in the form of a piano and vocal-parts score; each musical number being labelled to correspond with the musical numbers used in the script.

Staging can be done in a variety of ways, from a simple concert presentation to a dramatic performance with a series of scenes acted by Paul and the stage chorus.

Notes on a couple of Musical Numbers:

During **Music 1**, the stage chorus are required to shout in a random fashion, as shown in the score. The words are suggested in the score, but can be adapted and added to as seems appropriate.

During **Music 14**, speaking is done over the music, and to help in the timing and understanding of how this works, small parts of the musical score have been reproduced in the script which can be compared to the complete score. At the end, shouting like that in **Music 1** is required, with the sudden change in music, as the people riot at the idea of establishing churches of Jews mixed with Gentiles.

Paul

Act One

Music 1

Narrator *[As the final chord dies away]* And so Stephen died and Saul was pleased with the murder; in fact he was so obsessed with a desire to destroy the church in Jerusalem that he hunted for believers everywhere and threw them into jail. The church now faced a time of cruel persecution. Saul decided to go to Damascus and armed with a letter of authorisation he intended to arrest any believers and bring them back to Jerusalem. As he came near to the city Saul was surrounded by a brilliant light.

Group Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

Saul Who are you?

Group I am Jesus whom you have decided to persecute. Now go into the city and you will be told what to do.

Narrator The travellers who were with Saul were astounded as they had heard a voice but seen no-one. When the light was gone they led a shaken and blinded Saul into Damascus.

Music 2

Narrator Immediately upon the restoration of his sight Saul began preaching in the synagogues.

Saul Jesus is the Son of God!

Group: 1 This is the man who came to Damascus to seek out the followers of Jesus and drag them back to the High Priests in Jerusalem!

Group: 2 Now he says that he is a believer of Jesus.

Group: 4: It is a trick.

Group: 3 Yes, nobody can change just like that, but I don't understand how it helps his cause.

Group: 4 What does he gain by it?

Narrator Saul's preaching was so convincing that the Jews could not argue against it and they were silenced into a bitter hatred.

Group: 3 Let us kill this man, he is a threat to us.

Group: 4 But how can it be done?

Group: 3 We must watch the city gates day and night so that we don't miss our opportunity.

Group: 1 And then he cannot take his message beyond the walls of this city.

Group: 2 It will fizzle out before it has started.

Group: 4 I will gather friends and take the first watch.

Narrator Saul heard of the plan and with the help of his friends he escaped unharmed having been lowered over the wall in a basket. He returned to Jerusalem to join the other disciples.

Music 3

Music 4

Narrator And so Saul became accepted and he went all over Jerusalem speaking out boldly until his life was again threatened, but this time by some Greek-speaking Jews. His friends took him to Caesarea and he then travelled to Tarsus. Barnabas, after seeing what a wonderful community of believers there was in Antioch, sent for Saul and it was here that, during a time of fasting, the Holy Spirit said to them:

Group Set Saul and Barnabas aside for me so that they can fulfil the mission that I have for them.

Narrator Paul's life was now to be one of travel, devoted to spreading the truth of Jesus to both the Jews and the Gentiles. In doing so, he risked discomfort, danger and imprisonment and often death.

Music 4a

[Use Music 3, 1st verse only, as far as the end of bar 17]

Group: 1 Antioch in Syria
Group: 2 Seleucia

Group: 3	Salamis
Group: 4	Paphos
Group: 1	Perga
Group	Antioch in Pisidia

Narrator On the Sabbath, Paul wen to the synagogue and after reading from the Laws and the Prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent this message:

Group Friends, if you have anything to say to our people, to advise or inspire us, let us hear it.

Music 5

Group: 2	Iconium
Group: 3	Lystra
Group: 4	Derbe
Group: 1	Lystra
Group: 2	Iconium
Group: 3	Antioch in Pisidia
Group: 4	Perga
Group: 1	Altalia
Group: 2	Antioch in Syria

Narrator The first and most important aim of Paul was to preach about Jesus and to make people believe. In each new town he would approach the Jewish community, but they often rejected and mistrusted him because of this tolerance of the Gentile people and because they felt threatened by his new ideas. The Jews could not accept that the Gentiles were to receive the word of the Messiah without being bound by Jewish laws and traditions. More and more it became the Gentiles who listened to Paul and became the backbone of the new church. Paul also wanted to encourage and worship with existing Christian groups, sometimes staying considerable lengths of time helping churches to form themselves and to elect elders.

He started his second journey from Jerusalem where he had begun to debate whether or not new Gentile believers should be subject to all the laws of Moses, especially circumcision. Paul thought not.

Group: 3	Derbe
Group: 4	Lystra
Group: 1	Troas
Group	Philippi

Music 6

Narrator On the Sabbath Paul and his friends went down to the riverside to pray. They sat talking to a group of women, of whom one was Lydia. She opened her mind and she and her household were baptised.

Music 7

Narrator Lydia invited the disciples to stay in her house and this they did. During his stay in Philippi Paul was made angry by a slave girl who had an evil spirit in her and who was used by her owners to make money. After several days of seeing the girl used in this way he turned on her evil spirit and said:

Paul In the name of Jesus Christ come out of this girl!

Narrator The spirit left immediately but her owners, realising that their chance of making money was gone, grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the Roman officials.

Group These Jewish men are causing trouble in Philippi and they are teaching customs which are against our law.

Narrator Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten and thrown into jail.

Music 8

Group: 2 Thessalonica
Group: 3 Berea
Group: 4 Athens
Group Corinth

Narrator There he met a Jew named Aquilla and his wife Priscilla and he set up home with them for a long while pursuing his trade of tent-making. He continued to preach openly, to argue with many Jews and to make converts. He enjoyed fellowship and worship with other Christians.

Music 9

End of Act One

Act Two

Music 10

Group: 1	Ephesus
Group: 2	Caesarea
Group: 3	Jerusalem
Group: 4	Antioch
Group: 1	Tarsus
Group	Ephesus

Narrator Before his last journey, Paul left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus and during the time they spent there a Jew called Apollos arrived. He was an impressive speaker who spoke enthusiastically and correctly about Jesus, but Aquila and Priscilla realised that something was missing from his teaching and so they befriended as spoke with him. Likewise, when Paul arrived back in Ephesus he met a group of disciples who, like Apollos, needed some extra help and guidance.

Music 11

Narrator Paul stayed for two years in Ephesus preaching the word to everyone and also, with God's help, he performed miracles. Paul left Ephesus shortly after a time of great disturbance. Ephesus had a temple dedicated to the god Artemis and the people of the city took great pride in this and many worshipped the goddess and protected her memory and her name. A small industry had grown up around her. A man called Demetrius started the unrest.

Group: 1 Paul is ruining our trade and before long he will close us down. He is convincing people all around that gods made by men are not gods at all; he is giving our business a bad name.

Group: 2 What right has he? Artemis of Ephesus is great!

Group: 3 No-one can deny that we are the keepers of the temple...

Group: 1 ...or that the sacred stone fell down from heaven.

Group: 4 What can we do about Paul? we must rid ourselves of him.

Group Paul must go! Artemis of Ephesus is great!

Narrator The uproar grew and people rushed to the theatre shouting; they grabbed two of Paul's followers and took them along. Paul

wanted to go to placate the crowd, but friends sent messages begging him not to. It was the city clerk who calmed the people.

Group: 4 These men have not robbed our temple or said evil things against our goddess. If Demetrius has accusations to make there is a right place and time in which to do it, or else we can settle it in a legal meeting of citizens. Nothing can be done here and now. We will be accused of rioting. Go away and calm yourselves.

Narrator Paul called together his believers and with some final words said goodbye to them.

Music 12

Group: 1	Macedonia
Group: 2	Greece
Group: 3	Macedonia
Group: 4	Philippi
Group: 1	Troas
Group: 2	Assos
Group: 3	Mitylene
Group: 4	Samos
Group: 1	Miletus
Group: 2	Cos
Group: 3	Rhodes
Group: 4	Patara
Group	Tyre

Narrator The believers in Tyre pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem; they were afraid that he would be risking imprisonment and death, but Paul, thoroughly aware of what he was risking, knew he had to go. He refused their advice. His friends went with him to the beach, knelt and prayed.

Music 13

Group: 1	Ptolemais
Group: 2	Caesarea
Group	Jerusalem

Music 14

[Music starts with Narrator beginning next speech at bar 3 and concluding it with "rioting" at the start of bar 6, as shown.]

Music bars 1 to 6:

The musical score for Music bars 1 to 6 is presented in two systems. The first system, marked 'Slowly' and 'p', spans bars 1 to 4. The second system, marked 'Narration begins...' and 'rioting', spans bars 5 to 6. The notation includes treble and bass staves with various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Narrator

As soon as Paul arrived in Jerusalem it was considered wise that he should go through the Jewish ceremony of Purification. It was hoped that it would quieten some of the fears of the Jewish community who had heard that Paul had been preaching against the Laws of Moses, or diminishing their importance. At the end of seven days in the Temple Paul was seen by a group of Jews and allegations began which soon spread to rioting.

Music from bar 7:

The musical score for Music from bar 7 is presented in two systems. The first system, marked 'Moderately' and 'f Group begins...', spans bars 7 to 8. The notation includes treble and bass staves with various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Group: 4

[Music continues from bar 7] There's that man Paul who goes around preaching against our beliefs and even against our Temple.

Group: 2

He is defiling it; he would bring his Gentile friends to it.

Group: 3

Let us remove him from the sacred Temple!

Group: 3 & 4

There he is - let's get him! Help us! Help us!

- Group: 2** Let's throw him from the city!
- Group: 4** No! Let's kill him!
- Group: 2, 3 & 4** Kill him, kill him!
- Group: 4** ...and his followers!
- Group: 1** Stop! Who is the cause of all this trouble? Quiet! It seems to be that man over there. Arrest him. It may help us to get at the truth. Take him away. Use chains!
[This speech ends in the two bars before Paul starts to sing. Music 14 then continues to its end.]

Music ending:

Maintain tempo...

each of these I taught the way...

Former tempo

ff

(long pause)

- Crowd (on stage)** *[Shouting and rioting as soon as the last three bars of music start, dying down as **Group: 4** begins speaking]*
- Group: 4** *[As the final chord dies away]* Take him away to be whipped. That may satisfy this crowd and then perhaps we may discover what they are accusing him of.
- Narrator** But Paul, as a Roman Citizen, was able to avoid this torture. The next day his chains were removed and he had the chance to defend himself in front of the Chief Priests of the Jewish Council. Paul, aware that the council was divided into Pharisees and Sadducees, brilliantly set one side against the other by stating that he was only on trial because he believed in the resurrection of the dead. This was a belief of the Pharisees who then became vehement in their support of Paul. The council ended in uproar and Paul was taken away. In the night God spoke to Paul.
- Group** Paul, Paul. Keep you courage. You have spoken the truth about me in Jerusalem. You must do so in Rome.

Narrator However, it was over two years before Paul found himself, as a prisoner, on his way to Rome. During this time he was constantly defending himself in front of various officials and councils, who were never able to come to any conclusion as the accusations against Paul were so thinly based and always theologically arguable.

In settled times, or times of imprisonment, Paul kept in touch with many Christian churches by letter.

Music 15

Narrator Finally, Agrippa decided that Paul must go to Rome as he had appealed to the Emperor, and so he and many others set sail.

Music 16

Narrator When they were all safely ashore, they discovered that they were on the island of Malta. The natives built a fire to make them welcome and the warmth brought out a snake which fastened itself on to Paul's hand. The people saw this.

Group: 2 This man must be a murderer; he will die now.

Group: 3 He has escaped the sea, but not the snake.

Narrator However, Paul shook off the snake and remained unharmed.

Group He must be a god! Nothing has happened to him! A god is here, with us!

Narrator Paul was taken as a guest to the home of Publius, the Chief of the Island and during his visit he prayed and healed Publius's father and many others. He left the island showered with gifts of goodwill.

Group: 4 Syracuse
Group: 1 Rhegium
Group: 2 Puteoli
Group Rome

Narrator In Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself. He met with, and spent many hours trying to persuade the Jewish leaders to accept his truth about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. They argued and accepted nothing.

Group: 1 How well the Holy Spirit spoke through the prophet Isaiah when he said: "Go to the people and say:

Group

You will listen and listen, but not understand
You will look and look, but not see
Because your minds, ears, eyes and hearts are closed.
Otherwise,
Your ears would hear,
Your eyes would see
And your hearts understand."

Group: 1

God's message has gone to the Gentiles. They will understand.

Music 17

End of Act Two