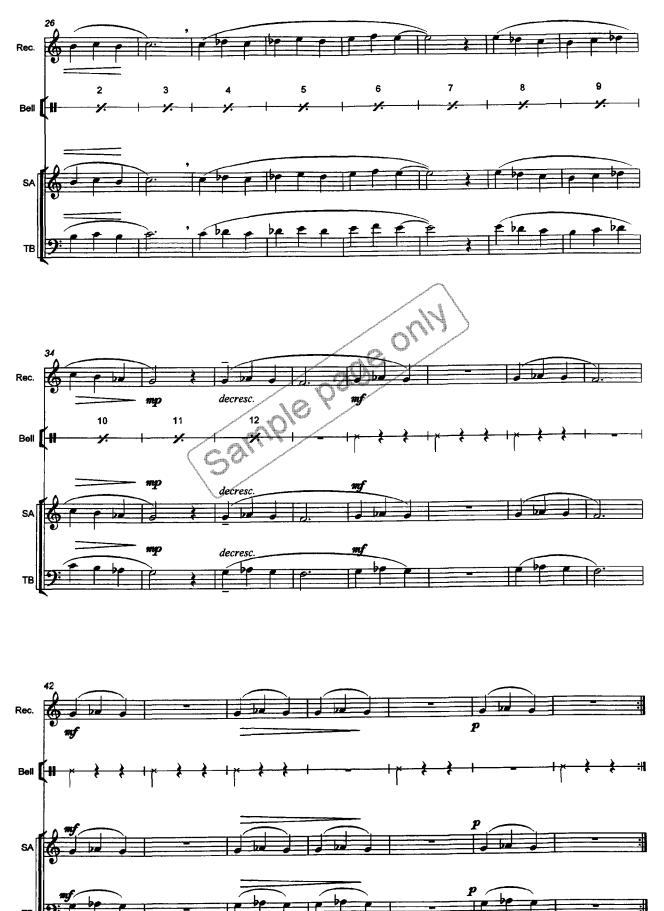
## Judith & Holofernes

Libretto Robert Craig John Gibson (b.1951)

## 1. Procession of Jewish People

Late afternoon before sunset. Heard first from without and as from a distance, the pilgrims, dressed in hooded floor length robes, sing as they process on their way. They enter from the back of the hall and assemble in the playing area.





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## 2. Concerted Music - Vesting

As if preparing for a liturgical event, the principals are solemnly vested in costumes appropriate to their characters by members of the chorus. The other chorus members assume positions around the edge of the playing area and observe the action when not actively participating themselves. As the other principals and acolytes clear the playing area Judith is discovered seated centre. She is serene and solitary. She remains silent and still during the following scene and until her first vocal entrance. She is separate and the lighting will highlight this, even as the others, including Holofemes, move about her.



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## 3. Holofernes, Achior, Chorus of Soldiers.

Drumming is heard in the distance. By the time of the first vocal entrance of Holofemes, it has reached a near roar. The following scene establishes his malevolence and his intention of destroying the Jewish nation.



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