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Daniel in the Lions' Den



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The tape operator should gradually fade out the electronic sounds.

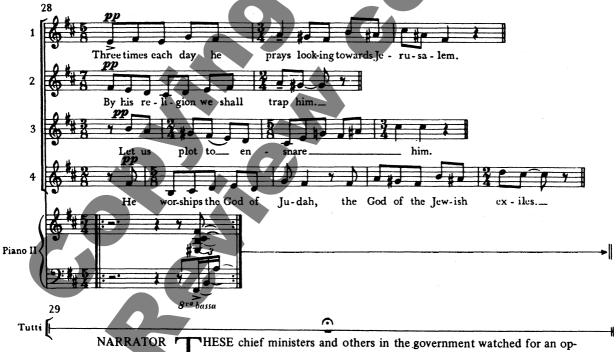


NARRATOR

ARIUS the Mede took Babylon after Belshazzar was slain. He appointed one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom and over them three chief ministers, to whom the governors should send reports so that the king's interests might not suffer; of these Daniel was one. In the enterprise Daniel outshone the other ministers and the governors because of his ability, and the king had it in mind to appoint him over the whole kingdom. Then the chief ministers and the governors began to look around for some pretext to attack Daniel's administration of the kingdom, but they failed to find any malpractice on his part; for he was faithful to his trust. Since they could discover no neglect of duty or malpractice, they said, "There will be no charge to bring against this Daniel unless we find one in his religion." And they plotted together.



NOTE: This event, which lasts about 15 seconds, is not conducted. At a signal from the conductor, the singers and instrumentalists, synchronizing with the eighth-note pulse of the snare drum, repeat their phrases over and over. At a second signal from the conductor, each finishes the phrase he has begun already and then stops. Each singer may perform the four phrases given in an order of his own choosing. That order should be changed with each repetition. The effect should be of conspirators plotting together stealthily.



portunity to approach the king to persuade him to issue a decree and bring an ordinance into force, that whoever within the next thirty days should present a petition to any god or man other than the king should be thrown into the lions' pit.





