

Standin' On the Mountain - *Fact Sheet*

TYPE: 3-Act, Christian Musical

CAST: minimum 8 adults; preferably 8-16, including chorus

RUN TIME: 2 hours, plus Intermission

SYNOPSIS: A powerful story about a church in the future that experiences persecution and emerges as the Church Triumphant. The Pastor and his trusty Choir Director, Ruth Ann, help a young woman, Sylva, who comes to saving faith in Christ. An evil, secular group, called The People, closes the church and imprisons the Pastor for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sylva tries to rescue him, but the Pastor sacrifices himself, so that she and Ruth Ann can escape to safety and share the Gospel with the next generation. Through it all you see the heart and the humor of those involved, as the Church waits expectantly for the return of Christ.

CHARACTERS:

PASTOR	A faith-believing man, about 50. Pastor of First Church. <i>Baritone, soloist.</i>
RUTH ANN	A jolly old soul with an attitude and a humble story to tell. Choir Director of First Church, about 50. <i>Alto, soloist.</i>
SYLVA	A young woman, seeking and finding. Danehart's fiancée. <i>Soprano, soloist.</i>
DANEHART	A young man, foolishly involved with The People. <i>Tenor, soloist.</i>
PERDU	The quintessential deacon, and the Pastor's friend. <i>Tenor, soloist, and leader of the Barbershop Quartet.</i>
PREFECT	A cold, ruthless man, about 50. Local Representative of The People. <i>No singing required.</i>
WILSON SISTERS	Two old church members, who finish each other's sentences. <i>No singing required.</i>
CHORUS	Choir and Congregation of First Church. (8+ members) <i>SATB</i>

SCORE: Piano, String Quartet, Bass Guitar, & Drums

SETTING: First Church and its environs; and a Rock Escarpment (Wilderness)

TIME: The Future

Standin' on the Mountain – *Overview*

Standin' on the Mountain is a 3-Act Christian Musical for adults. It has a running-time of approximately 2 hours. There are 16 original songs, which include everything from choral pieces to solos, and range from deeply inspirational to just plain fun. The play is written with minimal staging requirements, to allow for ease of production.

Standin' on the Mountain is a futuristic story of faith and hope in God, showing how one church stands in the face of persecution and becomes part of the Church Triumphant.

Synopsis: First Church is led by the Pastor, a man of great faith. He is assisted by Ruth Ann, the feisty secretary/choir director, and Perdu, the quintessential deacon. Life at First Church is joyous and productive, but it suffers under increasing pressure from a group called The People, represented by its local leader, the Prefect, and his protégé, Danehart.

Danehart's fiancée, Sylva, was raised in First Church but has rejected her Christian upbringing. She wants to marry Danehart and is pregnant with his child. She comes to the Pastor to ask him to marry them. The Pastor does not trust Danehart and tries to warn Sylva about him, but she runs away and marries Danehart anyway.

Despite the increasing ugliness of the world around them, First Church continues with its plan to hold its annual fall picnic. Danehart and Sylva, now newlyweds, attend. While there, Sylva again hears the truth of the Gospel and is convicted of the sin in her life. She tries to convince Danehart of the possibility that God is love, but he will not listen. Sylva eventually comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ, but Danehart refuses to believe.

The Prefect demands that First Church stop preaching the Gospel and be reopened as an officially-sanctioned "Worship House." When the Pastor refuses, the Prefect kills Danehart and frames the Pastor for his murder. The Pastor is imprisoned and awaits execution. Sylva visits his cell, fully intent on rescuing him, but he will not go with her; choosing instead to be martyred, rather than to put her and others in further danger.

Sylva and Ruth Ann escape and find safety in a remote location. In the end, the Pastor and all other faithful church members are shown as the Church Triumphant in Heaven.

Title: In the parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders (*Matthew 7:24-27*) a wise man built his house upon the rock. When the rains fell and the winds blew, the house did not fall because it had been built upon the rock. In the play, the characters who trust in Jesus are able to stand, even when persecution and difficulty come. This image of faith in God inspired the title of the play and its signature song, *Standin' on the Mountain*.

Cast Notes: The Pastor and Ruth Ann are endearing characters, who lead the cast. They sing the majority of the solos. They are about the same age and have been through many years of ministry together. Although their interactions are often comical, it is obvious that they have a deep respect and admiration for one another. When the worst happens, they both remain faithful to God, whom they love dearly. The faithful deacon, Perdu, who enjoys teasing Ruth Ann and leading the Barbershop Quartet, also serves as the Narrator in the narrated version of the play.