

Sermon for the Soloist

The renowned conductor Reichel was leading a great orchestra and choir in the final rehearsal of *Messiah*. They had come to the point where the soprano soloist takes up the refrain, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

With the chorus quiet, her elegant voice rang out. It was marked by perfect technique in breathing and enunciation. She sang with near perfection.

As the final note faded into silence, the entire orchestra expected to see Reichel's nod of approval. But instead, he stepped down from the podium and made his way to the singer. With a look of sorrow, he said, "My daughter, you do not really know that your Redeemer lives, do you?"

"Why, yes," she blushing replied.

"Then sing it!" cried Reichel. "Tell it to me so that I will know, and all who hear you will know that you know the joy and power of it!"

Turning to the orchestra, he motioned to begin again. This time, the soloist sang the truth as she knew it in her own soul. Those listening wept under the powerful witness.

People will judge us by the conviction and passion of what we say and what we do – and how the two interconnect.

--Beecher Hunter