

Celebration of a Hymn Text Series

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

Be Thou My Vision

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Ancient Irish Text

Mike McFerron

With Mystery (♩ = 52)

Organ

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9

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20

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart, Lord of my heart.

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart.



27

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Naught be all else to me, save that thou art, save that thou art;

Naught be all else to me, save that thou art, save that thou art;

SAMPLE

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This block contains the musical notation for measures 27 through 32. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Naught be all else to me, save that thou art, save that thou art;". The piano part consists of chords and a bass line. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the score.

33

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Thou — my best thought, by day or by night, day or by

Thou my best thought, by day or by

SAMPLE

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This block contains the musical notation for measures 33 through 38. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thou — my best thought, by day or by night, day or by" and "Thou my best thought, by day or by". The piano part consists of chords and a bass line. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the score.

40

night, wak-ing or sleep-ing thy pre-sence my light.

night, wak-ing or sleep-ing thy pre-sence my light.

5 5

This musical system covers measures 40 through 46. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "night, wak-ing or sleep-ing thy pre-sence my light." The piano part includes a treble and bass clef with various chords and melodic lines. There are two instances of the number "5" above the piano part, likely indicating fingerings. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the page.

47

Be thou my wis-dom, and thou my true word; thou my true

mf

tr

This musical system covers measures 47 through 53. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Be thou my wis-dom, and thou my true word; thou my true". The piano part includes a treble and bass clef with various chords and melodic lines. There is a dynamic marking of *mf* and a trill marking *tr*. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the page.

56

word; I ev - er with thee and thou with me Lord, thou with me Lord;

This system contains a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "word; I ev - er with thee and thou with me Lord, thou with me Lord;". The piano accompaniment consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes tied across measures.

63

crescendo poco a poco

Lord; thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;

This system contains a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Lord; thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;". The piano accompaniment consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes tied across measures. A fermata is placed over the final notes of the vocal line. The piano accompaniment includes a five-fingered scale-like passage in the right hand, marked with a '5' and a fermata.

71

thou in me dwel-ling, thou in me dwel-ling and I with thee one, Be thou my

77

vi - sion, Be thou my vi - sion, be thou my vi - sion!

85

In the following line, the minister is asked to address the congregation. Below is a sample of text that may be used; however, the minister is encouraged to ad lib or simply write her own mini-sermon to include. While the minister is speaking, the organist should simply repeat the first five bars as necessary and moving onto the second five bar phrase when the minister is approximately 2/3 finished.

For a concert version of this work, this section is optional. If a minister isn't available, a choir member may also address the audience. However if this section is cut, the organist should go directly from measure 93 to measure 104, bypassing measures 94-103.

My brothers and sisters – close your eyes for a moment: Imagine how our world would be if we took the advice of this hymn text. Can you imagine it? Can you see a world without hunger and poverty? A world where the tired and the poor have a roof over their head and a warm meal in their bellies? Can you see this world without war and killing? Without crime or social injustice? Can you see a society where every man, woman, and child have faith in their fellow citizen? Can you imagine our lives and the lives our fellow humans on this speck of dust floating through the universe?

For the world we want, follow the instructions of this hymn; endlessly strive to see the world through His eyes and with His wisdom! Please stand. Stand up and join the choir and sing the first verse of this profoundly beautiful Irish hymn. Arise and let your voices be heard. Let your voices transcend this building and this place at this time, so that your voices enter the hearts and minds of our fellow man. Enter now into they service of the Lord – Embrace God's command to bring care, provision and redemption to the poor and marginalized. Now stand and sing.

94

104

111

Slower than traditional ~ Not too fast (♩=72)

Soprano Descant*

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;

of my heart; save that thou art. day or by

naught be all else to me save that thou art. thou my best thought by day or by

*Soprano Descant: Typically, only a portion of the soprano section should sing the descant. Those not singing the descant should sing melody with the congregation.

118

of my heart; save that thou art. day or by

naught be all else to me save that thou art. thou my best thought by day or by

125

night; sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light, Be - thou my wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

mp (tutti sopranos)

133

vis - ion, Be thou my vi - sion.