

Commissioned by the Glenbard West High School Music Department's Parents Association for the retirement of Richard Whitecotton, in celebration of his 37 years as Director of Choirs

Let Me Be To Thee As the Circling Bird

SATB and Piano (optional string orchestra)*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

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Slowly, expressively ♩ = 54

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a piano introduction in the first system, featuring a treble clef staff with flowing eighth-note patterns and a bass clef staff with sustained chords. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. The vocal parts enter in the second system, marked with a '5' above the first staff. The lyrics are: "Let me be to Thee as the cir-cling bird, as the". The piano accompaniment continues in the third system, providing harmonic support for the vocal lines.

*String orchestra score and parts are available separately from the publisher (30/1669R).

8 *mp* or bat with ten - der and
 cir - cling bird, or bat with ten - der and
 cir - cling bird, or bat with ten - der and

10 air - crisp - ing wings ——— That shapes in half - light his
 air - crisp - ing wings ——— That shapes in half - light his
 air - crisp - ing wings ——— That shapes in half - light his
 air - crisp - ing wings ——— That shapes in half - light his

12

de-part-ing rings, — From both of whom a change-less note is

de-part-ing rings, — From both of whom a change-less note is

de-part-ing rings, — From both of whom a change-less note is

de-part-ing rings, — both of whom a change-less note is

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

14

a tempo

heard. I have

a tempo *mf*

heard. I have

a tempo *mf*

heard. I have

a tempo *mf*

heard. I have

p a tempo *mp*

p *a tempo* *mp*

17 *poco piu mosso*

found ³ my mu - sic in a com - mon word, _____

poco piu mosso

found _____ my mu - sic in a com - mon word, _____

poco piu mosso

found _____ my mu - sic in a com - mon word, _____

poco piu mosso

found _____ my mu - sic in a com - mon word, _____

poco piu mosso

mp

19

Try - ing each plea - sura - ble throat that

Try - ing each plea - sura - ble throat that

Try - ing each plea - sura - ble throat that

Try - ing each plea - sura - ble throat that

mf

20

f

sings And ev-'ry prais-ed se-quence of sweet—

sings And ev-'ry prais-ed se-quence of sweet—

sings And-ev-'ry prais-ed se-quence of sweet—

sings sequence of sweet—

f

22

mf

strings, and know in - fal - li - bly — which I pre -

mf

strings, and know in - fal - li - bly — which I pre -

mf

strings, and know in - fal - li - bly — which I pre -

mf

strings, and know in - fal - li - bly — which I pre -

mp

rit.

24

mf *a tempo*

ferred. The au - then - tic ca - dence was dis - cov - ered

a tempo

ferred.

mf *a tempo*

ferred. The au - then - tic ca - dence was dis - cov - ered

a tempo

ferred.

26

mf

late Which ends those on - ly strains that I ap -

mf

Which ends those on - ly strains that I ap -

late

prove, And oth-er sci-ence all gone out of

prove, And oth-er sci-ence all gone out of

f And oth-er sci-ence all gone out of

f And oth-er sci-ence all gone out of

date And mi-nor sweet-ness scarce made men-tion

date And mi-nor sweet-ness scarce made men-tion

p And mi-nor sweet-ness scarce made men-tion

p And mi-nor sweet-ness scarce made men-tion

32 *f* *rit.* 9

of: I have found the dom³-i-nant of my range and

of: I have found that dom³-i-nant of my range and

of: I have found that dom³-i-nant of my range and

of: I have found that dom³-i-nant of my range and

34 *allarg.* *ff*

state. Love, O my God, to call Thee

state. Love, O my God, to call Thee

state. Love, O my God, to call Thee

state. Love, O my God, to call Thee

Musical score for measures 36-37. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Love Love, O my God, to call Thee". The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

Musical score for measures 38-39. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Love, and Love, and". The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the end of measure 39.

40

Love,

Love,

Love,

Love,

42

mf and Love, *mp* and

mf and Love, *mp* and

mf and Love, *mp* and

mf and Love, *mp* and