

DANIEL ELDER MUSIC

VARIATIONS ON A SHAKER TUNE

FOR SATB VOICES

Program Notes

Of the wealth of music inherited from the Shaker tradition, surprisingly few melodies exist in the modern repertoire. This setting spotlights one of the many lesser-known hymns, pulling it out of obscurity and into a fresh musical perspective. Originally published in the late 19th-century, the authors of both melody and text remain anonymous. These beautiful, mysterious words may seem to call out from another time, still poignant today far beyond the old world of the Shakers. "Variations on a Shaker Tune" is a modest title apt for a celebration of noble humility, stretching its phrases and gently weaving them into a quilt of hymn fragments, transforming and expanding forms from strophic to sonata—but never abandoning its defining simplicity.

Text

A new inspiration suffuses my soul, From the heav'nly world it descends,
For it giveth new life while holding control, And my spirit upward tends.
Oh, the joy that I feel dissipates all fear, As mists are dispelled by the sunlight clear;
For all I receive from the source of good, My heart overflows with gratitude.

The rich ministrations I share from on high, Full of blessing hallowed and sweet,
To my earnest petitions seem a reply, Making all my bliss complete.
Oh, the joy that I feel dissipates all fear, As mists are dispelled by the sunlight clear;
And hope burns anew, when by faith I see Such proofs of unfailing love to me.

Tho' pearls of the ocean may fill with delight Those who seek for wealth of this earth,
And the gold of her mines so temptingly bright, May appear of greater worth.
Oh, the joy that I feel dissipates all fear, As mists are dispelled by the sunlight clear;
Far better than pearls of the deep blue sea Or gold, is this heav'nly joy to me.

About the Composer

As a prolific writer of vocal and instrumental music, Daniel Elder (b. 1986) ties these genres together to create forms and aesthetics that are at once lyrical and textural, drawing its roots particularly from the impressionist movement. Critics have hailed his works as "deeply affecting" and "without peer," with emotional evocations ranging from lush lyricism to jagged polyphony. Daniel's compositions have earned recent recognition from The American Prize, The Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, Cantus, and many others, including a recording by the Grammy-award-winning Eric Whitacre Singers made at Abbey Road Studios as part of their 80th Anniversary Anthem Competition. The first commercial album of Daniel's choral works, "The Heart's Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder," was released in October 2013 by Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ) and Naxos of America, and debuted at #53 on the overall classical Billboard chart. Daniel currently resides in Nashville, TN as a full-time freelance composer. He is published around the world by renowned houses such as Carus Verlag, Edition Peters, GIA Publications, Walton Music, and others, while also self-publishing his newest releases directly through J.W. Pepper. More information may be found at www.danieeldermusic.com.

VARIATIONS ON A SHAKER TUNE

Shaker tune HEAVENLY JOY
from "Original Shaker Music"
Composer & Lyricist Unknown

Daniel Elder (b. 1986)
(ASCAP)

Maestoso, sempre poco rubato (♩ = 78)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

5

p *pp* *non troppo*

From the

suf - fus - es my

pp *non troppo*

A new in - spi - ra - tion suf - fus - es my

Maestoso, sempre poco rubato (♩ = 78)

p *mp* *non troppo*

My soul the world, For it

heav - en - ly world it de - scends, the world it

p

soul, the world de - scends, the world, For it

p

soul, the world de - scends, For it

5

9

mf *ma dolce* *sub. p*

giv - eth new life, _____ life, _____ And my

mf *ma dolce* *sub. p*

giv - eth new life while — hold - ing con - trol, my

mf *ma dolce* *sub. p*

8 giv - eth new life while — hold - ing con - trol, my

mf *ma dolce* *sub. p*

giv - eth new life while hold - ing con - trol, And my

9

13

spir - it up - ward tends. _____

espress.

spir - it, my spir - it up - ward tends. —

8 spir - it up - ward tends. _____

pp

spir - it up - ward tends. _____ My

13

17

Oh my

p

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

17

21

Oh my

mp

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

21

29

rall. a tempo

f

soul, _____ soul, _____ soul, _____ Oh, the joy that I

f

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ Oh, the joy that I _____

f

8 soul, _____ soul, _____ soul, _____ Oh, the joy that I

f

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ Oh, the joy that I

rall. a tempo

29

33

più dolce

feel — dis - si - pates — all fear, As — mists — are dis -

più dolce

feel dis - si - pates all fear, — As mists are dis -

più dolce

8 feel — dis - si - pates all — fear, — As mists are dis -

più dolce

feel dis - si - pates all fear, As mists — are dis -

33

37

pelled — by the sun - light clear; For — all I re -

pelled by the sun - light clear; — For — all I re -

8 pelled by the sun - light clear; For — all I re -

pelled by the sun - light clear; For — all I re -

37

41

ceive from the source of good, My heart o - ver -

ceive from the source of good, My heart o - ver -

ceive from the source of good, My heart o - ver -

ceive from the source of good, My heart o - ver -

41

45

flows with gra - ti - tude. flows with my heart o - ver - flows. flows with my heart with gra - ti - tude. flows with gra - ti - tude.

flows with my heart o - ver - flows.

flows with my heart with gra - ti - tude.

flows with gra - ti - tude.

45

49

The ___ rich ___ min - is - tra - tions I share from on

mp

I share, ___

mp *p*

I share from on

8

49

53

high, Full of bless - ing hal - lowed and sweet, from on

Full of bless - ing hal - lowed and sweet, from on

8

high,

53

57 *sfz* high. *sfz* high.

mp *ma dolce* ...pe - ti - tions *ma dolce*

mp To my ear - nest pe - ti - tions

57

61 *dolce* Oh the

mp Mak - ing all my bliss com - plete. The

8 seem a re - ply, my bliss com - plete. The

seem a re - ply, my bliss com - plete. The

61

65 *mf* *mp*

joy that I feel — dis - si - pates all — fear, dis -

mf *mp* *espress.*

joy that I feel dis - si - pates — all fear, As mists are dis -

mf *mp*

joy that I feel dis - si - pates all — fear, dis -

mf *mp*

joy that I feel, — I feel, — dis -

65

69 *p*

pelled by the sun - light clear; —

p

pelled by the sun - light clear; —

p

8 pelled by the sun - light clear; —

p

pelled by the sun - light clear; — And

69

73

proofs of

cresc. poco a poco

I see Such proofs

cresc. poco a poco

hope _____ burns a - new when by faith _____ I see Such proofs

73

77

sfz

...love to me, Oh my soul.

cresc. poco a poco

sfz

un - fail - ing love _____ to me, my soul.

sfz

of love to me, my soul. _____

sfz *mp*

of... Oh my _____ soul, my

77

81

8

mp

Oh my

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

81

85

mf

Oh Tho'

mf

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, my

85

89

pearls _____ of the o - cean may fill with de - light Those who

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my

89

93

mf

And the gold of her mines so _____

seek for _____ wealth of this _____ earth, Oh, my

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my

soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my soul, _____ my

93

97 *molto rit.*

tempt - ing - ly bright, May ap - pear of great - er worth. Oh the

soul, my soul, — my soul, my soul, Oh the

8 soul, my soul, my soul, my soul, Oh the

soul, my soul, — my soul, — my soul, Oh the

molto rit.

97

101 *a tempo* *f* *brillante*

joy that I feel, — I feel, — the joy that I

f *brillante*

joy that I feel, — that I — feel, the — joy — that I

f *brillante*

8 joy that I feel, — that I — feel, the — joy that I

f *brillante*

joy that I feel, I feel, the joy

a tempo

101

105

mp

feel dis - si - pates all fear.

(*espress.*)

feel, the joy that I feel dis - si -

mp

8 feel dis - si - pates all fear.

mp

dis - si - pates all fear.

105

109

mp

pates all fear.

8 — As mists are dis - pelled by the sun - light

— As mists are dis - pelled by the sun - light

109

113

dolce *mp*

...clear; Far — bet - ter than pearls — of the

dolce *mp*

...clear; Far — bet - ter than pearls of the

8 clear; — Far — bet - ter than pearls of the

clear; — Far — bet - ter than pearls of the

113

117

deep — blue sea...

p

deep blue sea Or gold, is this heav - en - ly

p

8 deep — blue sea... ..heav'n - ly

p

deep blue sea... ..heav'n - ly

117

121

Far — bet - ter than pearls of the sea, —

joy to me, than pearls, this — heav'n - ly joy

8 joy — to me, than pearls of the sea, this — joy to

joy — to me, than pearls this joy

121

126

sotto voce Oh my soul.

sotto voce to me. Oh my soul.

sotto voce me. — Oh my soul.

sotto voce to me. Oh my soul.

126

HEAVENLY JOY.

MT. LEBANON, N. Y.



1. A new in-spi-ra-tion suf-fus - es my soul, From the heav'nly
2. The rich min-is-tra-tions I share from on high, Full of blessing
3. Tho' pearls of the o-ceau may fill with de-light Those who seek for



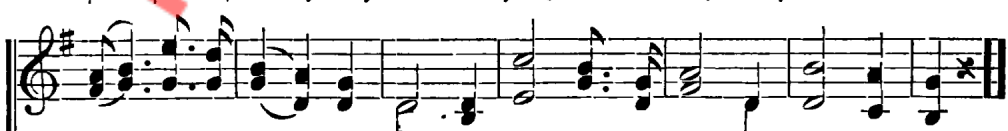
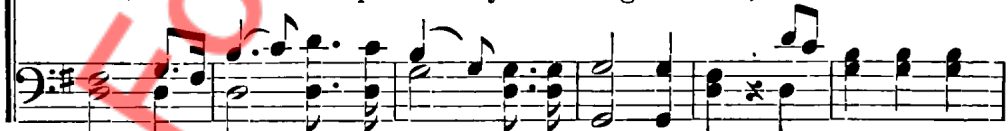
world it de-scends, For it giv-eth new life while holding control, And my hallowed and sweet. To my ear-nest pe - ti - tions seem a re - ply, Making wealth of this earth, And the gold of her mines so tempt-ing-ly bright, May ap-



spir-it up-ward tends. Oh, the joy that I feel dis - si-pates all
all my bliss com-plete. Oh, the joy that I feel dis - si-pates all
pear of great - er worth. Oh, the joy that I feel dis - si-pates all



fear, As mists are dis-pell-ed by the sunlight clear; For all I re -
fear, As mists are dis-pell-ed by the sunlight clear; And hope burns a -
fear, As mists are dis-pell-ed by the sunlight clear; Far bet-ter than



ceive from the source of good, My heart o-ver-flows with grat - i - tude.
new, when by faith I see Such proofs of un-fail - ing love to me.
pearls of the deep blue sea Or gold, is this heav'nly joy to me.



For Review Only