

commissioned for the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Rockville Center, New York, John Ervin, Organist/Choirmaster

SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR HEART

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Words from Song of Solomon 8: 6-7
and Psalm 51: 10-13
Adapted by ANNA LAURA PAGE

Music by
ANNA LAURA PAGE

Sw. Fl 8', St 8'
Gt. Fl 8', 4', 2'
Ped. Fl 16', 8'

Somewhat freely (♩ = ca. 72-76)

ORGAN

Gt. *f*

Ped.

The organ introduction is written for a 3/4 time signature. The right hand (treble clef) features a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The tempo is marked 'Somewhat freely' with a quarter note equal to approximately 72-76 beats per minute.

5

Sw.

mf

mp

Sw.

The piano accompaniment begins at measure 5. It features a flowing melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to mezzo-piano (mp). The tempo remains 'Somewhat freely'.

10 SOPRANO *rit.*

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

11 *a tempo mp*

mp

Set me as a seal up-on Your heart, O God, for

a tempo

rit.

(opt. accomp. to m. 24)

The vocal section begins at measure 10. The Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts are written in four-part harmony. The lyrics are 'Set me as a seal up-on Your heart, O God, for'. The tempo is marked 'a tempo' and the dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp). The piano accompaniment continues, with a note that it is optional for measures 24 and onwards. The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando) at the end of the section.

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15

death. _____

19

love___ is as strong ___ as death, strong as death. The wa - ters can - not

death. _____

20

quench love, nei - ther can floods drown it. Set me___ as a

24

seal ___ up on Your heart.

Sw. *cresc.**mf*

29

f

Cre -

f

cresc. Gt. *f*

33 Poco piu mosso

ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

Poco piu mosso

37

new a strong spir - it with - in me.

dim.

dim.

dim.

41 *accel. poco a poco*
mf unis.

Cast me not a - way,

cast me not a - way ____ from Your

accel. poco a poco

mf unis.

Cast me not a - way,

cast me not ____ from Your

mf accel. poco a poco

45 *mp*

pres - ence.

mp

pres - ence.

mp

cresc.

49 *Majestically* (♩ = ca. 84-88)

ff

Re - store un - to me the joy of sal -

ff

Re - store, re - store ____ the joy of sal -

Majestically (♩ = ca. 84-88)

ff

53

va - tion.

va - tion.

57 *f* **58**

Up - hold me with Your Spir - it. Then I'll teach Your

f Sw. *f*

61 *dim.* *rit.*

ways, and sin - ners will be con - vert - ed to

dim. *rit.*

The musical score is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble and bass staves) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass staves). The first system (measures 53-56) features the lyrics 'va - tion.' and has a piano accompaniment of sustained chords. The second system (measures 57-60) features the lyrics 'Up - hold me with Your Spir - it. Then I'll teach Your' and includes a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The third system (measures 61-64) features the lyrics 'ways, and sin - ners will be con - vert - ed to' and includes a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *f* (forte), *dim.* (diminuendo), and *rit.* (ritardando). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

65 Tempo I (♩ = ca. 72-76)

mp

You.

mp

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 72-76)

(Sw.) *mp*

70

*rit.*71 *a tempo*
mp

Set me as a seal up- on Your heart, O

*mp**a tempo*

(opt. accomp. to m. 80)

rit.

74

death. _____

God, for love — is as strong — as death, strong as death. The

death. _____

79

wa - ters can - not quench love, nei - ther can floods drown it.

Set me as a seal up - on Your heart, Your heart.

Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for All Saints' Lent, and funerals. Its text is adapted from Song of Solomon 8: 6-7 and Psalm 51: 10-13; additional corresponding lectionary readings include Jeremiah 31: 31-34, John 12: 20-33 and Hebrews 5: 7-10. One basic homiletical theme is God's everlasting love for humankind, which is stronger than death.

In rehearsal, strive for fluid phrases imbued with a strong sense of the underlying eighth note pulse. Highlight each dynamically according to the natural rise and fall of the phrases. To improve intonation, rehearse the entire anthem on a neutral syllable such as "hoo" until uniform choral timbre is achieved.

Anna Laura Page is Handbell Editor for Alfred Publishing Company. She received her B.M.E. in vocal music education and M.M. in music theory from the University of Kentucky. Active as a composer, clinician, and organ recitalist, she has served on the Music Committee of the Southern Baptist Hymnal Committee and has received the ASCAP Standards Award annually for the past several years. Ms. Page currently resides in Sherman, Texas, where her husband, Oscar, is president of Austin College.

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