

Hal H. Hopson has been a published prolific composer/arranger of choral music for over 50 years, and one of his particular areas of expertise is carefully editing classic choral works, making them accessible to medium-to-small choirs (as well as larger choirs with limited rehearsal time). The **Simply Sacred Choral Classics Series** caters to this approach. **He, Watching Over Israel** is one of the most popular choruses (from Mendelssohn's oratorio *ELIJAH*), now masterfully edited and arranged by Mr. Hopson. As with any contrapuntal choral work, strive to maintain the independence of each vocal line while blending smoothly. Always find the most important words in any given phrase and guide your choir members to help those words have weight to add to the message of the text. The text is taken from Psalm 121:4 and Psalm 138:7. These two passages are interwoven to great effect in Mendelssohn's soaring style.

**Hal H. Hopson** is a nationally recognized church musician, conductor and full-time composer residing in the hill country of Texas, near Austin. With a special interest in congregational song, he continues to make a significant contribution to the new repertoire of hymn tunes and responsorial psalm settings that appear in many hymnals.

As an active conductor and clinician, he has conducted choir and hymn festivals and workshops throughout this country, as well as Europe, Korea, Japan and Canada.

"God with Us," a cantata by Hal Hopson, was selected by The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. to be placed in a capsule during the American Bicentennial in 1976. The capsule will be opened at the Tercentennial in 2076, and the cantata will be performed as a representative piece of American choral composition in the twentieth century.

# HE, WATCHING OVER ISRAEL

from *Elijah*

for S.A.(T.)B. voices, accompanied\*

Words from  
Psalm 121:4, 138:7

Music by  
**FELIX MENDELSSOHN** (1809-1847)

Arranged by  
**HAL H. HOPSON**

With movement (♩ = ca. 88)

SOPRANO

ALTO

BARITONE

*p*

He, watch-ing o - ver

With movement (♩ = ca. 88)

ACCOMP.

*p*

3

Is - ra - el, slum - bers not, nor sleeps.

*simile*

\* To purchase a full-length performance recording (46850) of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).

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6

He slum - bers not, nor

*p*

He, watch - ing o - ver Is - ra - el, slum - bers not, nor

6

9

sleeps. He, watch - ing, slum - bers not, nor sleeps. He

*p* *cresc.*

He slum - bers

*cresc.*

sleeps. He, watch - ing

12 *cresc.* 14 *, mf*

slum - bers not, nor sleeps. He, watch - ing o - ver

not. He, watch - ing o - ver

*, mf*

o - ver Is - ra - el, He slum - bers not,

14 *mf*

15 *sub p*

Is - ra - el, slum - bers not, nor sleeps, slum -

Is - ra - el, slum - bers not. He

*p*

*p*

nor sleeps, slum - bers

18 20

- bers not, nor sleeps.

slum - bers not, nor sleeps.

not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou walk - ing in grief,

Shouldst thou

Shouldst thou walk - ing in grief, lan - guish,

lan - guish, He will quick - en thee. Shouldst thou

20

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *cresc.*

24

*mf*

walk - ing in grief, lan - quish, He will quick - en

*mf*

He will quick - en thee, He will quick - en thee.

*mf*

walk - ing in grief, in grief,

27

thee. He will quick - en thee. Shouldst thou

*f*

He will quick - en thee.

lan quish, shouldst thou, shouldst thou

*f*

30

walk - ing in grief, lan - guish, He will quick - en,  
 Shouldst thou walk - ing in grief, He will quick - en, He will  
 walk - ing in grief, Shouldst thou walk - ing in grief, He will

33

He will quick en thee. He, watch-ing o - ver Is - ra -  
 quick en thee. He slum - bers  
 quick en thee. He slum - bers, He

36

*dim. poco a poco*

el, slum - bers not, nor sleeps.

*dim. poco a poco*

not, slum - bers not, nor sleeps. He

*dim. poco a poco*

slum - bers not, nor sleeps. He

*dim. poco a poco*

39

*p*

He slum - bers not. He slum - bers

*p*

slum - bers not. He slum - bers

*p*

slum - bers not. He slum - bers

*p*



42 *, sub. f* 43 *dim. poco a poco*

not. He, watch - ing o - ver Is - ra - el, slum -

*, sub. f* *dim. poco a poco*

not. He, watch - ing Is - ra - el He

*, sub. f* *dim. poco a poco*

not. He slum - bers not. He slum - bers

43 *sub. f* *dim. poco a poco*

45

- bers not, nor sleeps. He slum -

slum - bers not. He slum -

not, nor sleeps. He slum - bers

48

bers not. He slum - bers not,

bers not, He slum - bers not,

not, He slum - bers — not,

*p*

51

*pp* sleeps not. He, watch - ing

*pp* sleeps not. He,

*pp* sleeps not. He,

51

*pp*

*p*

54

*mf dim.*

Is - ra - el, slum - bers

*mf dim.*

watch - ing Is - ra - el, slum - bers

*mf dim.*

watch - ing Is - ra - el, slum - bers

*mf dim.*

59

*pp rit.*

not, nor sleeps.

*pp rit.*

not, nor sleeps.

*pp rit.*

not, nor sleeps.

*pp rit.*

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