

THE TIGER

Words by WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

Music by SHERRI PORTERFIELD

William Blake was an English poet, painter and engraver who is now regarded as one of the earliest and greatest figures of Romanticism. He is probably best known for his hand-illustrated series of lyrical and epic poems, the most famous of these being **Songs of Innocence** (1789) and **Songs of Experience** (1794)

In these two collections, it was Blake's desire to show "the two contrary states of the human soul." **Songs of Innocence** represents the childlike feelings of life, symbolized by the Lamb.* The corresponding symbol in **Songs of Experience** is the Tiger, which represents energy, strength, cruelty and life as it is actually portrayed. It is interesting to note that Blake originally spelled the word "tiger" with a "Y" instead of with an "i". This may be due to the fact that he wanted to suggest to the reader a visual expression of a trigger or a coiled spring pertinent to the tense and awful tiger.

Throughout his life, Blake was ignored and considered to be insane by the public. He lived his life in poverty and died a poor and neglected man.

*Companion piece, from Songs of Innocence, LITTLE LAMB, Text by William Blake, Music by Sherri Porterfield.

Two-Part, optional SSA (SV9301)

THE TIGER

Two-Part (Optional SSA), accompanied

Words by WILLIAM BLAKE
Music by SHERRI PORTERFIELD

With intensity (♩. = 84)

Piano

mf

I

II

mp

mp

Ti - ger! Ti - ger! burn - ing bright - ly in the for - ests

Ti - ger! Ti - ger! burn - ing bright - ly in the for - ests

of the night. What im-mor - tal hand or eye could

of the night. What im-mor - tal hand or eye could

13

frame thy fear - ful sym - me - try? In what

frame thy fear - ful sym - me - try? In what

13

dis - tant deeps or skies. burnt the fire of thine eyes?


dis tant deeps or skies. burnt the fire of thine eyes? On what

19

What the hand dare seize the fire?
wings dare he as - pire? What the hand dare seize the fire?

28 *mf* What the chain? In what fur - nace
What the ham mer? In what fur - nace

33 *n.b.*
was thy brain? What the an - vil? What dread grasp
was thy brain? What the an - vil? What dread grasp



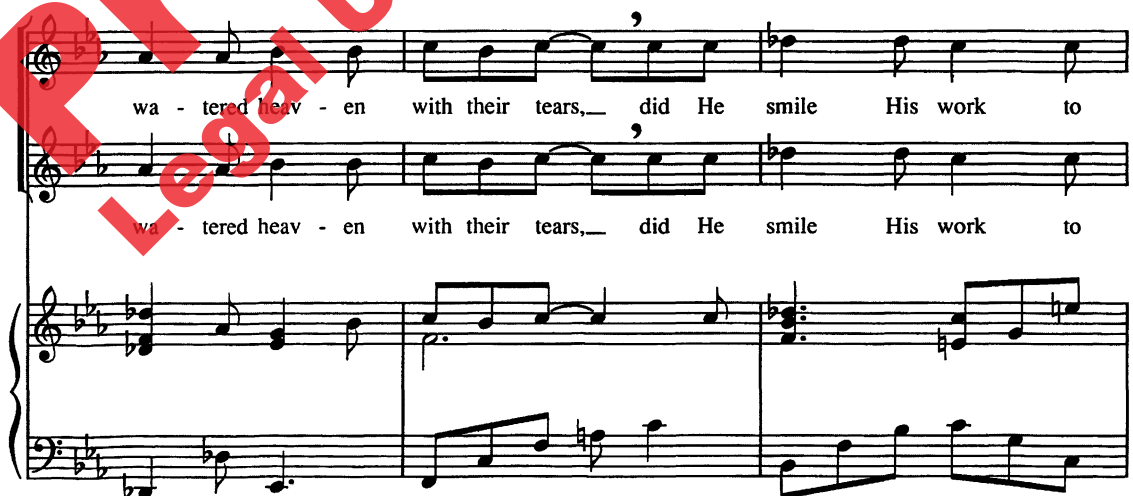
dare its dead - ly ter - rors clasp?

dare its dead - ly ter - rors clasp?



When the stars threw down their spears and

When the stars threw down their spears and



wa - tered heav - en with their tears, did He smile His work to

wa - tered heav - en with their tears, did He smile His work to

45

subito p

see? _____ Did He who made the Lamb make

see? _____ Did He who made the Lamb make

45

*subito p**f rit.**f rit.*

thee? _____

f rit.

49

*a tempo**a tempo**a tempo*

burn - ing bright - ly in the for - ests of the

Ti - ger! in the for - ests of the

night. What im - mor - tal hand or eye dare

night. What im - mor - tal hand or eye dare

54

frame thy fear - ful sym - me - try? dim.

frame thy fear - ful sym me try? dim.

dim.

Ti - ger! Ti - ger! mp

Ti - ger! Ti - ger! mp

60

mf Ti - ger! Ti - ger! burn - ing so bright - ly

mf Ti - ger! Ti - ger! burn - ing so bright - ly

in the night!

in the night!

(whisper) > > Ti - ger!

(whisper) > > Ti - ger!

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