

When God Forged My Being

meditation for piano and voice(s)

from *Ashes & Stardust* by Joel Richard Jude Jicha

(revised 2025 edition gifted to Ben Keating for ministry

as a Lawrence University Music Scholar at First Congregational UCC Appleton, WI)

When God forged my being from eternal stardust,
I emerged from the light with wings: my heart knew no burden,
my soul knew no burning, but the world saw fit to serve me
a banquet where the fruit of the divine was mixed with stinging nettles.
Tongues on fire lead man, some to glowing starlight, some to choking sulfer.
When God returns my being to eternal stardust,
I shall join the light with wings. My heart shall forget burden!
My soul shall forget burning: when God takes back my being to eternal stardust.

♩ = 52-62 *poco rubato, molto espressivo*

mp

*Pedal freely with the beat,
larger groupings as desired*

3 *mp* *phrases should be as long as possible
with breaths chosen to emphasize text*

When God forged my be - ing from e - ter - nal star - dust,

5

I e - merged from the light with wings:

8 my heart knew no bur - den, my soul knew no bur - ning,

9 but the world saw fit to serve me a ban - quet

f

11 where the fruit of the di - vine was mixed with sting - ing net - tles.

13 *accel.* *rall.*

15 *a tempo*

p

18 *ff*

Tongues on fire lead man:

ff

21 *mf* *mp*

some to glow-ing star - light, some to chok-ing sul - fer.

mf *mp*

25 *sub.mf* *p*

sub.mf *p*

Musical score for measures 29-31. The system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 31 includes a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 32-33. The vocal line begins in measure 32 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics "When God re- turns my be - ing" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern.

Musical score for measures 34-35. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "to e - ter - nal star - dust, I shall join the light". The piano accompaniment remains consistent.

Musical score for measures 36-37. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "with wings. My heart shall". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Measure 37 includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

38 *f*

for - get bur - den! My — soul shall

40 *ff* — *mf*

for - get bur - ning:

ff — *mf* *sub. ff*

42 *p*

when — God takes back my be-ing to e - ter-nal star -

sub. mp — *p*

45

dust.

rall. e decresc.