

When God Forged My Being

meditation for piano and voice(s)

from *Ashes & Stardust* by Joel Richard Jude Jicha

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*

Musical score for piano introduction. The score is in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major (three flats). It consists of three staves: a single treble staff for the right hand and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the left hand. The right hand plays a series of chords, mostly triads and dyads, with some grace notes. The left hand plays a more complex accompaniment with chords and single notes. The tempo is marked 'poco rubato, molto espressivo' with a quarter note equal to 52-62 beats. The dynamic is marked '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

Musical score for voice and piano, first line. The score is in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of three staves: a single treble staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano. The voice part has a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. The dynamic is marked 'mp'.

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

5

Musical score for voice and piano, second line. The score is in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of three staves: a single treble staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano. The voice part has a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. The dynamic is marked 'mp'.

I e - merged from the light with wings:

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

This system contains measures 1 through 8 of the musical score. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "my heart knew no bur - den, my soul knew no bur - ning,". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

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

This system contains measures 9 and 10. Measure 9 begins with a fermata over the vocal line. Measure 10 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The lyrics are: "but the world saw fit to serve me a ban - quet". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand.

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

This system contains measures 11 and 12. Measure 11 has a fermata over the vocal line. Measure 12 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and accents (>) over the notes. The lyrics are: "where the fruit of the di - vine was mixed with sting - ing net - tles.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand.

accel. *rall.*

This system contains measures 13 and 14. Measure 13 is marked with an acceleration (*accel.*) instruction. Measure 14 is marked with a rallentando (*rall.*) instruction. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand.

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

29

f

32

mp

When — God re- turns my be - ing

mp

34

to e - ter - nal star - dust, I shall join the — light —

to e - ter - nal star - dust, I shall join the — light —

36

mf

with — wings. My — heart shall

mf

38 *f*

for - get bur - den! My soul shall

40 *ff* *mf*

for - get bur - ning:

sub. ff

42 *p*

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

sub. mp *p*

45

dust.

rall. e decresc.