

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 sulfur.
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*

The piano introduction is in 5/4 time, marked *mp*. It features a complex, flowing melody in the right hand with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand with sustained chords and moving lines. The tempo is indicated as 52-62 bpm, *poco rubato, molto espressivo*. A performance instruction at the bottom reads: "Pedal freely with the beat, larger groupings as desired".

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

The vocal entry begins at measure 3. The melody is in 5/4 time, marked *mp*. The lyrics are: "When God forged my being from eternal stardust,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same complex, flowing texture as the introduction.

5

The vocal line continues at measure 5. The lyrics are: "I e-merged from the light with wings:". The piano accompaniment remains consistent with the previous sections, providing a rich harmonic and rhythmic foundation for the voice.

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

This system contains measures 7 and 8. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and eighth-note patterns, and a left hand with a simple bass line. The lyrics are: "my heart knew no bur - den, my soul knew no bur - ning,".

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

f

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 piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The lyrics are: "but the world saw fit to serve me a ban - quet".

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

This system contains measures 11 and 12. The vocal line features some notes with accents. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The lyrics are: "where the fruit of the di - vine was mixed with sting - ing net - tles."

accel. *rall.*

This system contains measures 13 and 14. Measure 13 is marked with an acceleration (*accel.*) and measure 14 with a deceleration (*rall.*) instruction. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The lyrics are: "where the fruit of the di - vine was mixed with sting - ing net - tles."

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 pattern in the right hand and a simpler 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 staff. 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 with the eighth-note pattern.

Musical score for measures 36-37. The vocal line includes the lyrics "with wings. My heart shall". The piano accompaniment features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking in measure 37.

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.