

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.

$\text{♩} = 52-62$ *poco rubato, molto espressivo*

The first system of the musical score is in 5/4 time, marked *poco rubato, molto espressivo*. It features a piano introduction with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, while the bass staff has a few notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. Below the bass staff, the instruction "Pedal freely with the beat, larger groupings as desired" is written.

The second system of the musical score begins with a vocal line in the bass staff, marked *mp*. The lyrics are "When God forged my being from eternal stardust,". The piano accompaniment continues in the treble and bass staves. Above the vocal line, the instruction "phrases should be as long as possible with breaths chosen to emphasize text" is written. The system is numbered 3.

The third system of the musical score continues the vocal line in the bass staff, marked *mp*. The lyrics are "I emerged from the light with wings:". The piano accompaniment continues in the treble and bass staves. The system is numbered 5.

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

This system contains measures 7 and 8. The vocal line is in the bass clef with a key signature of three flats. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with arpeggiated chords and a left hand with single notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

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

This system contains measures 9 and 10. Measure 9 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment continues with arpeggiated chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

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 arpeggiated chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

accel. *rall.*

This system contains measures 13 and 14. Measure 13 is marked with *accel.* and measure 14 with *rall.*. The piano accompaniment continues with arpeggiated chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

15 *a tempo*

p

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

18 *ff*

Tongues on fire lead man:

ff

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

21 *mf* *mp*

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

mf *mp*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

25 *sub.mf* *p*

sub.mf *p*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

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.