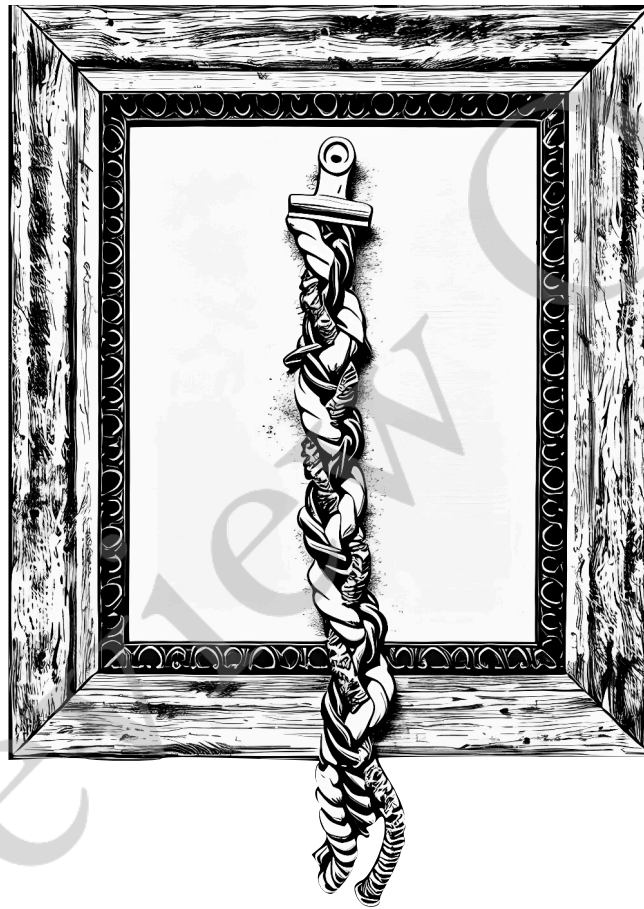


BE THOU MY VISION, Pick

SATB (div.)
a capella

Be Thou My Vision



arranged by

James Elias Pick

Note from the Composer

Be Thou My Vision has always been one of my favorite hymns. Each verse is a beautifully crafted prayer, and I encourage the choir to read and consider the text carefully. This arrangement preserves the traditional melody—making only minor alterations—while setting each verse in a way that reflects the meaning of the text. With every stanza, the poet focuses ever more resolutely on God as her soul's deepest desire and ultimate joy.

The setting of the first verse is notably simple, presenting the melody against lush, wordless choral backgrounds. The rest of the song is built on this essential foundation. In verse two, the pillars of wisdom and truth are reflected in the chordal writing, which supports the melody with strength and unity. The descant must add to, not overpower the melody.

In verse three, the near-constant eighth notes weave a tapestry of counterpoint reflecting the myriad of distractions that assail us. At m. 63-64, the relentless movement ceases, and all voices move inward to a true unison, emphasizing again the singularity of focus on God, the treasure. At m. 85, the triumphant key change anticipates the arrival at “heaven’s joys.” The arrangement pays homage to a traditional homophonic hymn setting, yet every melodic note is harmonized with a unique, richly textured chord, mirroring the delights awaiting us in eternity.

This arrangement, composed for my wedding, was originally recorded with six singers, one per part. I have found that it works equally well with choruses large and small, each ensemble’s performance taking on a distinct character depending on its size. It is a true delight to see this arrangement living on in churches and the concert hall.

Soli Deo Gloria.

~ James Elias Pick

Visit www.jamespick.com to contact the composer or share recordings.

Text:

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only be first in my heart.
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, when vict’ry is won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

– Eleanor Henrietta Hull
& Mary Elizabeth Byrne

for Hannah, my love

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor Henrietta Hull
and Mary Elizabeth Byrne

(SATB divisi, a cappella)

Traditional Irish Tune
Arr. James Elias Pick

Heartfelt; with motion (♩ = 92)

mf *sempre espressivo*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

PIANO

for rehearsal only

6

S

A

T

B

11

S

A

T

B

Oo

Oo

Oo

Oo

Oo

Oo

17

S

A

T

B

17

Oo

Oo

Be Thou my — vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all

Oo

Oo

Oo

Oo

22

S
else to me, save that Thou art, Thou my — best — thought, by

A
Oo

T
8
Oo

B
Oo



27

S
day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.

A
Oo

T
8
Oo

B
Oo



33 Solo or Small Group
mf (descant)

Be — my wis - dom, Thou my true word; I — with

f (melody)

S Be Thou my — wis - dom be Thou my true word; I ev - er

A *mf* Be my wis - dom be Thou my true word. I ev - er —

T *mf* Be my wis - dom, Thou my true word. I with

B *mf* Be my wis - dom, Thou my true word. I with

33 Be my wis - dom, Thou my true word. I with

38

Thee and — Thou with me, Lord; — Thou my Fa - ther,

S with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my — great Fa - ther,

A with Thee and — Thou with me, Lord; Thou my — great Fa - ther,

T 8 Thee — and Thou with me, Lord; — Thou my Fa - ther,

B Thee and Thou with me, Lord; — Thou my Fa - ther,

43

S I Thy true son, Thou dwell - ing, I with Thee one.

A I Thy true son, Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.

T I Thy son, Thou dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.

B I Thy son, Thou Dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.



49 *mp*

S Oo

A *mp* Oo

T *mp* Oo

B *mp* Oo

49



53 Gently; deliberately ($\text{♩} = 70$)*mp*

S Rich - es I — heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
mp Rich - es I — heed not nor man's emp - ty praise, man's emp - ty —

A Rich - es I — heed not — — — — — nor man's emp - ty praise,
mp I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
mp I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
 Rich - es, I heed not man's emp - ty praise,

T 8 I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
 I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
 Rich - es, I heed not man's emp - ty praise,

B 8 I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
 I heed not man's emp - ty praise,
 Rich - es, I heed not man's emp - ty praise,

53 Gently; deliberately ($\text{♩} = 70$)

57

S Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 praise, Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways, al - ways;

A mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways, al - ways;
 mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways, al - ways;

T 8 mine in - her - i - tance, al - ways;
 mine in - her - i - tance, al - ways;

B Thou — mine — in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways, al - ways;
 Thou — mine — in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways, al - ways;

61

S Thou and Thou on - ly be first in my heart.

A Thou and Thou on - ly be first in my heart.

T Thou, Thou on - ly be first in my heart.

B Thou and Thou on - ly be first in my heart.

65

S High King of Heav - en, my treas - ure Thou art.

A High King of Heav - en, my treas - ure Thou art.

T High King of Heav - en, my treas - ure Thou art.

B Oh, High King, my treas - ure Thou art.

8
69 **Tempo I**
mf

S

A

T

B

mp

mp

mp

69 **Tempo I**

75

S

A

T

B

81 *cresc.* *rit.*

S *Oo*

A *Oo* *cresc.* *Oo*

T *Oo* *cresc.*

B *Oo* *cresc.* *Oo*

Oo *rit.*

85 **Maestoso** (♩ = 84) *f*

S High King of Heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won,

A High King of Heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won,

T High King of Heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won,

B High King of Heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won,

85 **Maestoso** (♩ = 84)

89

S may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.

A may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.

T may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.

B may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.

93

S Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

A Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

T Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

B Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

97

S still be my vi - sion, O — Ru - ler of all. *dim.*

A still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all. *dim.*

T still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all. *dim.*

B still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all. *dim.*

101 **Slowly** Still be my vi - sion, O — Ru - ler of all.

S *mp* *p* Oo —

A *p* Oo —

T *p* Oo —

B *p* Oo —

101 **Slowly**