

Winner of an Award of Distinction in Choral Composition in the 2007-08  
International Composers Competition of the Longfellow Chorus, Inc., Portland, Maine.  
for Dr. David Holdhusen and the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers

# The Slave Singing at Midnight

for SATB Voices a cappella with Baritone Solo

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
(1807-1882)

Peter J. Durow

In a steady 2  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96$

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'In a steady 2' with a quarter note equal to approximately 96 beats per minute. The vocal parts feature dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The lyrics are 'Oo', 'Oh', 'Ah', and 'Loud'. A 'Solo' marking is placed above the Bass line. The piano accompaniment is marked '(for rehearsal only)' and includes a tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96$ .

"The Slave Singing at Midnight" is one of eight poems found in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Poems on Slavery*. Longfellow wrote these poems in the latter part of October 1842 aboard ship on a return trip from Germany. Longfellow wrote in a letter to John Forster, "I believe that everyone has a perfect right to express his opinion on the subject of slavery. . . everyone ought to do so until the public opinion of all Christendom shall penetrate into and change the hearts of the Southerners on this subject."

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5

S *p* Hm Hm Hm

A *p* Hm Hm Hm

T *p* Hm Hm Hm

B *mf*

— he sang the psalm of Dav - id! He, a Ne - gro and

8

S *p* Hm Hm

A *p* Hm Hm

T *p* Hm Hm

B *f*

en - slaved, Sang of Is - rael's vic - to - ry,

11

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *mp*

B *f*

Hm Oh Hm Oh Hm Oh

Sang of Zi - on, bright and free, In that hour; when night is calm -

11

14

S *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *f*

Sang he Sang he Sang he

- est, Sang he from the Heb - rew Psalm - ist, In a

14

17 *mp* *subito p*

S voice so clear Hm

A voice so clear Hm

T voice so clear Hm

B voice so sweet and clear That I could not choose

17

20  $\text{♩} = 120$  In a steady 2

S

A *f* Songs of tri-umph, and as - crip - tions,

T

B but hear,

20  $\text{♩} = 120$  In a steady 2

23 *f* *mf*

S Songs of tri-umph and \_\_\_ as - crip-tions, Songs of tri-umph and \_\_\_

A *mf*

A Songs of tri-umph, and \_\_\_ as - crip-tions, Songs of tri-umph, and \_\_\_

T *f*

T Songs of tri-umph, and \_\_\_

B

23

26

S \_\_\_ as - crip - tions, Songs of tri - umph and \_\_\_ as - crip - tions,

A \_\_\_ as - crip - tions, Songs of tri - umph, and \_\_\_ as - crip - tions,

T *mf*

T \_\_\_ as - crip - tions, Songs of tri-umph, and \_\_\_ as - crip - tions,

B *Tutti f*

B Songs \_\_\_ of tri - umph, \_\_\_

26

29

S  
Songs of tri - umph and as - crip - tions,

A  
Songs of tri - umph, and as - crip - tions,

T  
Songs of tri - umph, and as - crip - tions,

B  
and as - - - - crip - tions,

29

31 *mf*

S  
Such as reached the swart E - gyp-tians, When up-on the Red

A  
*mf*  
Such as reached the swart E - gyp-tians, When up-on the Red

T  
*mf*  
Such as reached the swart E - gyp-tians, When up-on the Red

B  
*mf*  
Such as reached the swart E - gyp-tians, When up-on the Red

31

31

34 *f*

S Sea coast Per - ished Phar - aoh and his

A Sea coast Per - ished Phar - aoh and his

T Sea coast Per - ished Phar - aoh and his

B Sea coast Per - ished Phar - aoh and his

34

38 *mf*

S host. And the voice of his de - vo - tion filled my soul

A host. And the voice of his de - vo - tion filled my soul

T host. And the voice of his de - vo - tion filled my soul

B host. And the voice of his de - vo - tion filled my soul

38

41 *mp calmato*

S — with strange e - mo - tion; — For its tones by turns — were

A — with strange e - mo - tion; — For its tones by turns — were —

T — with strange e - mo - tion; — For its tones by turns — were

B — with strange e - mo - tion; — For its tones by turns were

45 *Slower mp p*

S glad, — Sweet - ly sol - emn, wild - ly sad. —

A glad, — Sweet - ly sol - emn, wild - ly sad. —

T glad, —

B glad, —

45 *Slower*



51 *a tempo* *f*

S Paul \_

A Paul \_

T *mf* Sang of Christ the Lord a - ris - en.

B *mf* Paul and Si - las in their pris-on, Sang of Christ, the Lord a - ris - en.

51 *a tempo*

56 *f*

S — and Si - las in their pris-on, Sang — of

A — and Si - las in their pris-on, Sang — of

T *mf* Paul and Si - las in thier pris-on, Paul and Si - las in thier pris-on, Sang of — *f*

B *mf* Paul and Si - las in their pris-on, Paul and Si - las in their pris-on, Sang of *f*

56

61

S Christ the Lord a - ris - en. And an earth-quake's

A Christ the Lord a - ris - en. And an earth-quake's

T Christ the Lord a - ris - en. And an earth-quake's

B Christ the Lord a - ris - en. And an earth-quake's

61

66

S arm of might Broke their dun - geon-gates at night. But, a -

A arm of might Broke their dun - geon-gates at night. But, a -

T arm of might Broke their dun - geon-gates at night.

B arm of might Broke their dun - geon-gates at night.

66

70 Broad and slower

S las! what ho - ly an - gel Brings the Slave this glad e - van - gel? And what

A las! what ho - ly an - gel Brings the Slave this glad e - van - gel? And what

T *mp* Oh Ay

B *mp* Oh Ay

70 Broad and slower

74 *Tempo Primo* *p*

S earth-quake's arm of might Breaks his dun-geon-gates at night? Oo

A earth-quake's arm of might Breaks his dun-geon-gates at night? Oo

T Ah Oo

B Ah Oo

74 *Tempo Primo*

79

S *p* Oh Ah Hm *p*

A *p* Ah Hm *p*

T *p* Ah Hm *p*

B *p* Oh Ah Solo *f* Loud he sang the psalm

79

83

S Hm Hm

A Hm Hm

T Hm Hm

B *mf* of Dav - id! He, a Ne - gro and en - slaved, *f* Sang

83

86 *p*

S  
Hm Hm Hm

A  
Hm Hm Hm

T  
8 Hm Hm Hm

B  
*f*

of Is - rael's vic - to - ry, Sang of Zi - on, bright

86

89 *mf* = 120 In a steady 2

S  
And the voice of his de - vo - tion

A  
*mf*  
And the voice of his de - vo - tion

T  
8 *mf*  
And the voice of his de - vo -

B  
*Tutti mf*  
and free And the voice of his de - vo -

89 = 120 In a steady 2

