

Dedicated to Marilyn Horne

# BE MERCIFUL UNTO ME, O GOD



Psalm 57

MICHAEL HEAD

Original key: D flat

*Lento espressivo* ♩ = circa 40 *pp sostenuto*

VOICE

Be mer - ci - ful un - to me, O God, Be

ORGAN or PIANO

*pp sostenuto*

*con Ped.*

mer - ci - ful un - to me, Be mer - ci - ful, O God, For my

*Ped.*

*P poco cresc.*

*Ped.* \*

soul re - fuge in thee, Yea, - in the sha - dow of thy wings will I make my re - fuge Un -

*P poco cresc.*

Duration: 5 minutes

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*f*

- til these ca - la - mi - ties be o - ver - past, be o - ver - past.

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The vocal line begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

*mf* *f* *mf*

I will cry un-to God most high, Un-to God that per-form-eth all things for me.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It features a change in time signature from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (*mf*) and forte (*f*). The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line.

*mf largamente*

He shall send from heaven and save me from the re-proach of him that would

The third system is marked *mf largamente* (mezzo-forte, largamente). It features a vocal line with a triplet of eighth notes and a piano accompaniment with sustained chords. The time signature is 3/4.

*f*

swal - low me up. God shall send forth his

The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It features a change in time signature from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. Dynamics include forte (*f*). The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line.

**SAMPLE COPY**

mer - cy, shall send forth his mer - cy and his

truth.

*P dolce cantabile*

**Poco più mosso** (♩ = circa  
(*mezza voce*)

ly sou is a - mong li - ons, and I lie

*misterioso*

e - ven a - mong them that are set on fire,

*agitato*

e - ven the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and

The first system of music features a vocal line in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with a key signature of two flats and a 3/4 time signature, consisting of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

*agitato*

ar - rows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *sf* (sforzando) and a fermata over the final note. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings of *sf* and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Be thou ex - alted, O God, a - bove the heavens; Let thy

The third system shows the vocal line with a dynamic marking of *f ten.* (forte, tenuto) and a fermata. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking of *f* and a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. A large asterisk is placed at the end of the system.

ry be a - bove all the earth.

The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings of *f colla voce* and *cantabile*.

SAMPLE COPY

*p subito, agitato*

They have pre-pared a net for my steps;— my soul is bowed down:

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and the same key signature. The tempo and dynamics are marked as *p subito, agitato*. The lyrics are: "They have pre-pared a net for my steps;— my soul is bowed down:". The piano part includes chords and a triplet of eighth notes.

They have digged a pit be-fore me,— In-to themidst wh-ere of they are

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *sf* (sforzando). The piano accompaniment also features *sf* markings. The lyrics are: "They have digged a pit be-fore me,— In-to themidst wh-ere of they are". The piano part includes chords and a triplet of eighth notes.

fall - en them-selves. My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p armonioso*. The lyrics are: "fall - en them-selves. My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is". The piano part includes chords and a triplet of eighth notes.

fixed: I will sing and give praise. A -

The fourth system of the musical score. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *f*. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *f*. The lyrics are: "fixed: I will sing and give praise. A -". The piano part includes chords and a triplet of eighth notes.

SAMPLE COPY

*più f* *poco rit. p*

- wake up, my glo - ry, my glo - - ry. *poco rit. A -*

*più f*

*rit. rit. rit. rit.*

*a tempo*

- wake, psal - te-ry and harp, a - wake, psal - te-ry and

*a tempo p*

*p*

harp. I my-self will a-wake ear - ly, will a-

*mp cantabile espressivo*

*molto poco rit.*

wake ear - ly, will a - wake.

*molto cresc. poco rit.*

*rit.*

*ff largamente*

I will praise thee, O Lord, a - mong the peo - ple:

*ff largamente*

*poco rit.*

I will sing un - to thee a - mong the na - tions.

*poco rit.*

*pp subito, a tempo*

For thy mer - cy great un - to the heavens And thy

*pp*

*cresc.*

*poco rit.*

with un - to the clouds. Be thou ex -

*poco rit.*

*f largamente*

*ten.* *rall.*

- alt - ed, O God, a-bove the heavens Let thy

*allargando* *ff* *rall.*

glo - ry be a - bove all the earth.

*ff allargando* *rall.* *a tempo*

*accel.* *Ped.*

*accel.* *Ped.*

*dim. e rall.*

*mp* *p* *pp*

*Ped.* *Ped.* *C*