

A Song of Battle

Note:

This is the fifth of six Bible Songs by Charles Villiers Stanford, opus 113, for solo voice or Unison voices.

All of the Bible Songs are intended to be followed by a short four-part Anthem.

In this case it would be

Praise to the Lord, the almighty.

Psalm 124

1 If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say:

if the Lord himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us;

2 Then they had swallowed us up alive: when their wrath was kindled against us.

3 Then the waters had overwhelmed us:

the stream had gone over our soul.

4 Then the proud waters : had gone even over our soul.

5 Blessed be the Lord: who hath not given us as a prey unto their teeth.

6 Our soul is escaped even as a bird from the snare of the fowlers:

the snare is broken, and we are delivered.

7 Our help is in the Name of the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Opus 113, No. 5

Allegro con fuoco.

Voice

Organ

Pedals

7

f

If the Lord him - self had not been on our side,

mf

2 13

now may Is - rael say: If the Lord him -

This system contains measures 13 through 17. It features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs), and a separate bass line in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 13 has a vocal note on a half note, followed by a quarter note in measure 14, a half note in measure 15, a quarter note in measure 16, and a half note in measure 17. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The bass line is a single melodic line.

18

self had not been on our side, when men rose up a -

This system contains measures 18 through 22. The vocal line continues with lyrics. The piano accompaniment and bass line follow the same pattern as the previous system. Measure 18 has a vocal note on a half note, followed by a quarter note in measure 19, a half note in measure 20, a quarter note in measure 21, and a half note in measure 22. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The bass line is a single melodic line.

23

gainst us; Then they had swal - lowed us up a - live,

This system contains measures 23 through 27. The vocal line continues with lyrics. The piano accompaniment and bass line follow the same pattern as the previous system. Measure 23 has a vocal note on a half note, followed by a quarter note in measure 24, a half note in measure 25, a quarter note in measure 26, and a half note in measure 27. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The bass line is a single melodic line. Dynamic markings *mf* and *f* are present above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment.

mf

— when their wrath was kind - led a - gainst us. They had

f

swal - lowed us up a - live, ———— when their wrath was

mf

kind - led a - gainst us. Then the

f

4 43

wa - ters had o - ver - whel - med us, The stream_____

mf

This system contains measures 43 through 47. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, and a separate bass line at the bottom. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is common time.

48

_____ had gone o - ver our soul:

più f

This system contains measures 48 through 52. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a more active melody in the right hand, marked *più f* (more forte). The separate bass line continues at the bottom.

53

f Then the proud wa - - - - - ters had gone_____

This system contains measures 53 through 57. The vocal line begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The separate bass line continues at the bottom.

poco slentando

e - ven o - - - ver our soul,

colla parte

62

a tempo

o - ver our soul.

f

67

f

Bles - sed be the Lord, who hath not giv-en us as a prey

mf

un - to their teeth. Our soul is es - ca - ped e - ven as a

bird _____ from the snare of the fowl - - ers; Our

cresc.

soul is es - ca - ped e - ven as a bird _____ from the

cresc.

snare of the fowl - - ers; the snare_____ is bro - ken, the

snare_____ is bro - ken, and we_____ are de -

li - ver - ed. Our

8 103

help_____ is_____ in the name of the Lord,

The musical score for measures 103-108 features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are "help_____ is_____ in the name of the Lord,". The piano accompaniment consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with block chords and some moving lines. The bass line is in bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment.

109

rall.

Who made heav'n_____ and

The musical score for measures 109-114 continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Who made heav'n_____ and". The tempo marking *rall.* (rallentando) is present above the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment includes a grand staff and a bass line, with some chords marked *rall.* in the piano part.

115

earth._____

a tempo
ff

The musical score for measures 115-120 features the vocal line with the lyrics "earth._____". The tempo marking *a tempo* and the dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) are present. The piano accompaniment includes a grand staff and a bass line, with a final cadence in the piano part.