

Seth Houston, choral composer

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Desert Sorrow

commissioned by Larry Gordon and the Onion River Chorus, Montpelier, Vermont.

John Barlow, 1786

Seth Houston, 1992

pensively, $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54-58$

p *mf* *with conviction*

A - long the banks where Ba - bel's cur - rent flows, Our cap-tive

A - long the banks where Ba-bel's cur-rent flows, Our cap-tive

A - long the banks where Ba - bel's cur - rent flows, Our cap-tive

A - long where Ba - bel's cur - rent flows, Our cap-tive

p *mf* *with conviction*

band in deep de-spon - dence strayed. While Zi-on's fall in

band in deep de-spon - dence strayed. While Zi - on's fall in

band in deep de - spon - dence strayed. While Zi - on's

band in deep de - spon - dence strayed. While Zi - on's fall in

pensively *mp*

pensively *mp*

11 *p*

sad re-mem - brance rose, Her friends, her chil - dren min - gled with the

11 *p*

sad re - mem - brance rose, Her friends, her chil - dren min - gled with the

8 *p*

fall in sad re - mem-brance rose, Her friends, her chil - dren min - gled with the

11 *p*

sad re - mem - brance rose, Her friends, her chil - dren min - gled with the

15 *p* **A**

dead. The tune-less harp that once with joy we strung, When praise em-

dead.

8 *p*

dead. The tune - less harp that once with joy we strung, When praise em-

15 *p* **A**

21

played and mirth in-spired the day, In mourn-ful si-lence

21

played and mirth in - spired the day, In mourn - ful si - lence

26

on the wil-lows hung, And grow-ing grief pro-longed the te-dious day. The

pp

26

on the wil - lows hung, And grow - ing grief pro - longed the te - dious day. The

pp

26

on the wil - lows hung, And grow - ing grief pro - longed the te - dious day. The

pp

B

31
 bar-b'rous ty - rants too in - crease our woe, With taunt-ing
pp
 The bar-b'rous ty - rants too in - crease our woe, With taunt-ing
 8
 bar-b'rous ty - rants too in - crease our woe, With taunt-ing
 bar - b'rous ty - rants too in - crease our woe, With taunt-ing

B

31
 31
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in
 8
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in

36
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in
 8
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in

36
 36
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in
 smiles a song of Zi - on claim, Bid sa - cred praise in

41

strains me - lo - dious flow, While they blas - pheme the great Je - ho - vah's

strains me - lo - dious flow, While they blas - pheme the great Je - ho - vah's

8
praise in strains me - lo - dious flow, While they blas - pheme the great Je - ho - vah's

strains me - lo - dious flow, While they blas - pheme the great Je - ho - vah's

41

41

45

C

name.

name.

p

8
name. But how in hea-then chains and lands un - known, Shall Is-rael's

p

name. But how in hea - then chains and lands un - known, Shall Is-rael's

45

C

p

45

51

8

sons a song of Zi-on raise, O hap-less

sons a song of Zi-on raise, Oh hap-less Sa-lem,

51

56

8

Sa-lem, God's ter-res-trial throne, Thou land of glo-ry, sa-cred mount of praise.

God's ter-res-tri-al throne, Thou land of glo-ry, sa-cred mount of praise.

56

p

D

61

e'er my mem - 'ry lose thy love - ly name, If my cold

p

If e'er my mem - 'ry lose thy love - ly name, If my cold

8

D

61

61

66

heart ne - glect thy kin - dred race, Let dire de - struc - tion

heart ne - glect thy kin - dred race, Let dire de - struc - tion

8

66

66

with conviction

71 *mp*

seize this guil - ty frame, My hand shall pe - rish and my voice shall cease. But

seize this guil - ty frame, My hand shall pe - rish and my voice shall cease.

mp

But

mp

But

71 *mp*

76 **E** *mf*

shall the Lord who hears when Zi - on calls O'er-take her

mp *mf*

But shall the Lord who hears when Zi - on calls O'er-take her

mf

8 shall the Lord who hears when Zi - on calls O'er-take her

mf

shall the Lord who hears when Zi - on calls O'er-take her

76 **E** *mf*

81

foes with ter - ror and dis - may, His arm a - venge her

foes with ter - ror and dis - may, His arm a - venge her

8

foes with ter - ror and dis - may, His arm a -

foes with ter - ror and dis - may, His arm a - venge her

81

81

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 81 through 85. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment consisting of a right-hand and left-hand part. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "foes with ter - ror and dis - may, His arm a - venge her". The piano part includes triplets and various chordal textures.

86

de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day.

de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day. His

8

venge her de - so - late walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day.

de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day.

86

86

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 86 through 90. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three sharps and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day." and "venge her de - so - late walls, And raise His chil - dren to e - ter - nal day." The piano part continues with triplets and harmonic support for the vocal lines.

F

poco rit.

91

His arm a - venge her de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren

arm a - venge her de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren

8 His arm a - venge her de - so - late walls, And raise His chil - dren

His arm a - venge her de - so - la - ted walls, And raise His chil - dren

91 F *poco rit.*

96

to e - ter - nal day.

to e - ter - nal day.

8 to e - ter - nal day.

to e - ter - nal day.

96 F *poco rit.*