

concert music

# Awake and Shine

Three Hymns of New England

for String Quartet and Guitar

peter gilbert

# Awake and Shine: Three Hymns of New England

commissioned by the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival

Inspired by living in Boston for several years, I became interested in filling a commission for a chamber music festival in a coastal Massachusetts town with echoes of music sung into American soil from long ago. I started with some tunes found in the Book of Psalms published by Henry Ainsworth in Amsterdam in 1612. It was the psalter that the Pilgrims used in Plymouth before the more well-known Bay Psalm-Book was published in Cambridge in 1640.

One tune, whose opening rises optimistically stepwise, was taken from the Genevan Psalter of 1559 (though it first appeared in 1551, attributed to Louis Bourgeois) and is printed with a text from Psalm 124 (Toulon):

Our soul is as a bird escaped free  
From out of the intangling fowler's snare.  
The snare is broke and we escaped are.  
Our succor in Jehovah's name shal bee  
That of the heav'ns and earth is the maker.

A second tune, probably English in origin, is printed with a text from Psalm 24:

Lift up, ye gates, your heads, and ye,  
Dores of eternal aye,  
Be lifted up, that so the King  
Of glory enter may!  
This King of glory, who is He?  
Jehovah, puissant  
And valiant, Jehovah, He  
In battel valiant.

The third tune, which actually opens the work, is "I shall be satisfied" - a New England tune that dates from the 19th century:

If I in Thy likeness, O Lord, may awake,  
And shine a pure image of Thee,  
Then I shall be satisfied when I can break  
The fetters of flesh and be free.

I know this stained tablet must first be washed white  
To let thy bright features be drawn;  
I know I must suffer the darkness of night  
To welcome the coming of dawn.

Visible in these various stern visages of our Puritan heritage are the glowing eyes of transcendence which reappeared down the road in Thoreau, Emerson, et al.. But it was the older, earlier voices whose ghosts seemed to hover around us in that church in Newburyport during the premiere.

-Cambridge, 2005

# Awake and Shine Three Hymns of New England

Peter Gilbert

for my grandmother, Emily Squires Wabeke

Freely  
"I Shall be Satisfied"  
Solo

Violin 1

Play this as a fiddle tune with rubato ranging at least from  $\text{♩} = 60$  to  $\text{♩} = 120$  (the tempo can generally center somewhere around  $\text{♩} = 90$ ).  
Ornamentation and dynamic expression can be freely and spontaneously improvised. The notation here hopefully provides a template... a point of departure.

Vn 1

Vn 1

29 ( $\text{♩} = c. 100$ ) ...and gradually slowing

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Gt

39 Cantabile (c.  $\text{♩} = 60$ )  
rallantando

moving forward and  
gradually picking up tempo

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Gt

45 ...now more open (♩ = c. 72)

Musical score for measures 42-47. Instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, Gt. Time signatures: 3/4, 2/4, 3/4, 2/4, 3/4. Dynamics: *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*. Includes accents and slurs.

Musical score for measures 48-54. Instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, Gt. Time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4. Dynamics: *p*, *>p*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes accents and slurs.

55 Freely

Serene (♩ = 60)

Musical score for measures 55-60. Instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc. Time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4. Dynamics: *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes accents, slurs, and a triplet.

**60** "Our Soul is like a bird escap'd free"

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Gt

*con rubato espressivo*

*Solo*

*pp* *p* *pp*

Gt

65

*mp* *mf*

**70** Fugue

a tempo (♩ = 52 - 66)

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Gt

*pp* *pp* *arco* *pp*

<*p* *pp*

78 "Lift up ye gates"

76

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Gt

arco

*pp*

*p*

*p*

12

from a distance

*pp*

*poco*

81

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Gt

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*poco*

84

86

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

**92** Deliberate (♩ = c. 56) but with motion

Musical score for measures 92-95. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time. The tempo is marked 'Deliberate (♩ = c. 56) but with motion'. The dynamics are: Vn 1 (mf), Vn 2 (mf), Va (< mf), Vc (mf), and Gt (p). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the guitar and a melodic line in the strings.

Musical score for measures 96-100. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time. The dynamics are: Vn 1 (f), Vn 2 (f), Va (f), Vc (f), and Gt (f). The music continues with the eighth-note accompaniment and melodic line, with a slight increase in intensity.

**101** moving forward and gradually picking up tempo

Musical score for measures 101-105. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time. The tempo is marked 'moving forward and gradually picking up tempo'. The dynamics are: Vn 1 (mf), Vn 2 (p), Va (p), Vc (p), and Gt (p). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the guitar and a melodic line in the strings, with a gradual increase in tempo and intensity.

109 With radiant intensity (♩ = c. 69)

107 *poco rall.*

Musical score for measures 107-114. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'poco rall.'. The dynamics are *ff* (fortissimo) for measures 107-110 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 111-114. The Vc part has a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic in measure 114.

115 120

Musical score for measures 115-120. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are *p* (piano) for measures 115-118 and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for measures 119-120. The Vc part has a *mp* dynamic in measure 120. The Gt part has a *p* dynamic in measure 115 and *mp* in measure 120. There are time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/2 and back to 4/4.

121 127

Musical score for measures 121-127. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, Vc, and Gt. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are *mp* (mezzo-piano) for measures 121-122, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 123-124, and *f* (forte) for measures 125-127. The Vc part has a *f* dynamic in measure 123. The Gt part has a *f* dynamic in measure 127.

128 *rallantando*

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc  
Gt

*mp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

12 8

133 Serene (♩ = 60)

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc  
Gt

*p* *p* *pp* *pp* *p*

12 8 18 8 12 8

137 *ritardando*

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc  
Gt

*p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *p*

12 8