

God Who Touches Earth with Beauty

For Mixed Chorus
with
Organ Accompaniment

by

Dale E. Ramsey

 SWIRLY MUSIC

Composer's Notes

Dr. Robert Cueni, to whom this piece is dedicated and after whom the hymn melody is named, was the Senior Minister of Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri from 1991 to 2002. The words of this anthem are his favorite hymn. It was written in his honor at his acceptance of the position of President of the Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. The anthem was sung at his last Sunday service in Kansas City

This early 20th century text uses nature as a metaphor to express concepts and qualities of an individual's character. It celebrates aspects of personality which give us the ability to communicate trust and confidence in the midst of a cynical and difficult world. It does so without utilizing gender specific language, so, while being almost 100 years old, it inclusively speaks to all people in the presently diverse society of humanity

The music is stylistically compatible with the sensual nature of the text. The melody is quite pleasant, and the harmonization is not much unlike the music of early twentieth century hymn writers--quite warm and sophisticated. The organ part is rather symphonic in concept, which many organists enjoy as a current fashion in the early 21st century. Choirs seem to enjoy singing this piece of music. Perhaps it gives them a chance to experience something of a hint of what was thought of as "good" church music in a time 100 years past, as well as to sing words that still encourage us to reflect upon the "content of our characters".

In honor of Dr. Robert Cueni

God Who Touches Earth with Beauty

for Mixed Chorus and Organ

Mary S. Edgar, 1925 *alt.*

Dale E. Ramsey
based on *CUENI*
85.855

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 69$

Musical score for organ introduction, measures 1-5. The score is in treble and bass clefs, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piece begins with a half rest in the bass clef and a half note in the treble clef. The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A *poco* (slightly) marking is present over measures 4 and 5. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is at the bottom left.

Musical score for vocal entry, measures 6-8. The score is in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The vocal line begins with a half rest, then a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics are: "God, who touch-es earth with beau-ty, make my heart a -". The organ accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

Musical score for vocal entry, measures 9-12. The score is in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The vocal line begins with a half rest, then a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics are: "new. With your Spir - it re - cre - ate me pure and". The organ accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

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12

strong — and true, pure and strong and true.

solo

17

mf

Like — your springs and run-ning wa-ters, make me

mf

cry - stal pure.

21

cry - stal pure. Like your rocks of tower-ing gran - deur, make me

cry - stal pure.

25

strong and sure, make me strong and sure.

29

32

Like your danc-ing waves of sun-light, make me glad and

Like your danc - ing waves in sun - light,

Like your danc - ing waves in sun - light,

35 free. Like the straight - ness of the pine trees, let me
 glad and free. Like the straight - ness
 glad and free. Like the straight - ness

38 up - right be, let me up - right
 of the pine trees, let me up - right
 of the pine trees, let me up - right

42 be.
 be.
 be.
 add, box closed

46 Ten. & Bar. *f*
 Like the arch-ing of the heav-ens, lift my thoughts a -
mf

49

bove. Turn my dreams to no-ble ac - tion, and to

52

min-is-tries of love, min-is - tries of love.

add

56

60

Sops. *f*

A. T. B. *f* God who touch-es earth with

God who touch-es earth with beau-ty, make my

+soft Rds.

63

beau - ty, make my heart a - new. Keep me
heart a - new. Keep me ev - er, by your

66

e - ver by your Spir - it, pure and
Spir - it, pure and strong and true, pure and

69

strong and true.
strong and true.

poco rit.
ff