

Ross C. Bernhardt

# DRESDEN MEDITATION

Text by Norbert Čapek (1870-1942)  
Translation by Max Lom

*Mixed choir, unaccompanied*



2007



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## COMPOSER'S NOTE

The author of the text of this composition, Norbert Čapek (1870-1942) was the founder of the Unitarian movement in what is now the Czech Republic. Originally destined for the Catholic priesthood, he converted to the Baptist faith; however, his views gradually became more liberal, and he was forced to emigrate to the United States. After discovering Unitarianism there, he and his wife returned to Prague to found a Unitarian church there, which soon became the largest in the world.

After the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, Čapek's liberal views caught the attention of the new regime. In 1942 he was arrested and charged with a capital crime—listening to foreign broadcasts on the radio. After incarceration at Pankrác Prison in Prague, he was transferred to internment in Dresden (where the text of this composition was written), and afterwards to Dachau concentration camp. He was tortured there and eventually executed in the gas chamber at Hartheim Castle.

Čapek's Flower Communion, initiated in his Prague church to celebrate the diversity of life, continues to be an important part of worship in Unitarian congregations throughout the world.

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Dedicated to the UAB Concert Choir and their conductor, Dr. Philip Copeland

# Dresden Meditation

$\text{♩} = 72$  *p*

Soprano  
In the depths of my soul there where lies the

Alto  
In the depths of my soul there where lies the

Tenor  
In the depths of my soul there where lies the

Bass  
In the depths of my soul there where lies the

Piano (for rehearsal only)

6 *mf*

S  
source the source of strength where the di - vine and the hu - man meet, -

A  
source the source of strength where the di - vine and the hu - man meet, -

T  
source the source of strength where the di - vine and the hu - man meet, -

B  
source the source of strength where the di - vine and the hu - man meet, -

2

10 *mp*

S  
There, qui - et your mind, — qui - et, qui - et,

A  
*mp*  
qui - et your mind, — qui - et, qui - et,

T  
*mp*  
qui - et your mind, — qui - et, qui - et,

B  
*mp*  
qui - et your mind, — qui - et, qui - et,

10

10

3

13

S  
In the depths of my soul. Out - side let

A  
*mf*  
In the depths of my soul. Out - side let

T  
*mf*  
In the depths of my soul. Out - side let

B  
*mf*  
In the depths of my soul. Out - side let

13

13

17 *mp*

S light-ning reign, hor - ri - ble dark - ness fright-en the world. But from the

A light-ning reign, hor - ri - ble dark - ness fright-en the world. But from the

T 8 light-ning reign, hor - ri - ble dark - ness fright-en the world. But from the

B light-ning reign, hor - ri - ble dark - ness fright-en the world. But from the

17 *mp*

21 *p*

S depths of your own soul From that si - lence will

A depths of your own soul From that si - lence will

T 8 depths of your own soul From that si - lence will

B depths of your own soul will

21 *p*

4 24 *f*

S rise a - gain — God's — flow'r. Re - turn to your self,

A rise a - gain — God's — flow'r. Re - turn to your self,

T rise a - gain — God's — flow'r. Re - turn to your self,

B rise a - gain — God's — flow'r. Re - turn to your self,

27 *meno f* *mp*

S Rest in your self, Live in the depths of your soul Where the di -

A *meno f* *mp*

T *meno f* *mp*

B *meno f* *mp*

Rest in your self, Live in the depths of your soul Where the di -

31 *mf*

S vine and the hu - man meet. Tune your heart to the e -

A vine and the hu - man meet. Tune your heart to the e -

T vine and the hu - man meet. Tune your heart to the e -

B vine and the hu - man meet. Tune your heart to the e -

34 *mp*

S ter - nal And in the depths of your own soul Your

A ter - nal And in the depths of your own soul Your

T ter - nal And in the depths of your own soul Your

B ter - nal And in the depths of your own soul Your

6 36

S  
pan-ting qui-ets down, qui-ets qui-ets qui-ets *p*

A  
pan-ting qui-ets down, qui-ets qui-ets qui-ets *p*

T  
pan-ting qui-ets down, qui-ets qui-ets qui-ets *p*

B  
pan-ting qui-ets down, qui-ets qui-ets qui-ets *p*

40

S  
down Where the di - vine and the hu - man meet,

A  
down Where the di - vine and the hu - man meet,

T  
down Where the di - vine and the hu - man meet,

B  
down Where the di - vine and the hu - man meet,

44

S  
There is your re - fuge. In the depths of your

A  
There is your re - fuge. In the depths of your

T  
8  
There is your re - fuge. In the depths of your

B  
There is your re - fuge. In the depths of your

48

S  
*p sim.*  
soul, in the depths of your soul.

A  
*p sim.*  
soul, in the depths of your soul.

T  
8  
*p sim.*  
soul, in the depths of your soul.

B  
*p sim.*  
soul, your soul, depths of your soul.