

Three Songs of the Soul

II. The Soul Considers Its Nearness to God

SATB a cappella with divisi

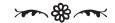


Poem by Jan Luyken

Music by Rebecca Oswald (1997)



Duration 4:10



Rebecca Oswald Music rebeccaoswald.com

Rebecca Oswald (b. 1958) is an award winning composer and lifelong pianist. Her catalogue includes music for piano as well as other solo instruments, various chamber ensembles, string and full orchestra, art songs, all types of choral ensembles including chorus with orchestra, a clarinet concerto, and an opera. She has also written music for film and games. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree, *summa cum laude*, in music theory and composition from Westminster Choir College (1998), and a Master of Music degree in music composition from the University of Oregon School of Music (2001). For more information please visit rebeccaoswald.com or write to rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com.

Rebecca Oswald

Three Songs of the Soul II. The Soul Considers Its Nearness to God

SATB a cappella with divisi

Program notes:

The Soul Considers Its Nearness to God is the second in a choral set entitled Three Songs of the Soul. Jan Luyken (1649-1712), a native of Amsterdam, lived a secluded life as a poet, artist, and engraver. The English translations of these three poems (Frank J. Warnke, tr.) first appeared in the Winter 1958 issue of Comparative Literature (Volume 10:1). In this choral setting, the melodies and harmonies aspire to express the meaning and beauty of the poet's metaphysical ideals. Within lightly extended tonality which develops throughout the piece via expanding and contracting harmonic progressions and modulations, each voice has its own lyrical life.

The engraving on the cover, "De Musikant," is from Het Mensylek Bedryf, a collection of engravings made in the studio of Johannes Luiken (another spelling of Jan Luyken) and his son Caspaares (Caspar). and was published in Amsterdam in 1694.

Requests:

- (1) Please report all U.S. performances of this work to BMI (classical@bmi.com) and to me (rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com) by emailing a JPG or PDF of a program, flyer, poster, or ticket showing the title of my programmed work(s) and my name (Rebecca Oswald).
- (2) Similarly, please report all non-U.S. performances to the host country's national performance rights organization, to BMI (classical@bmi.com), and to me (rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com).

Many thanks! I hope you and your choir enjoy singing The Soul Considers Its Nearness to God.

- Rebecca Oswald



Rebecca Oswald Music rebeccaoswald.com

Catalogue no. ROM-9701

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The Soul Considers its Nearness to God

I thought that Godhead made its home afar, Enthroned beyond the moon and every star,

And often lifted up my eyes

Thither with deep and heartfelt sighs;

But when it pleased Thee to illuminate me,

I saw no heavenly light descend to greet me;

But at my spirit's deepest root,

All was lovely, all was sweet.

For Thou cam'st from the depths and outwards spread,

And like a well my thirsty heart was fed;

So was it, God, that Thee I found

To be the ground beneath my ground.

Then I rejoiced that Thou, my highest dearest

Wert closer to me than my earthly nearest!

All disproportion fled from me,

My heart was pure, as it should be.

No heights, no depths, shall separate us twain;

I melt in God, my Love; we shall remain

One soul, one heavenly flesh and blood,

The being and the mind of God.

It must occur; O help, eternal Lord,

To turn us to Thy will and to Thy word.

Jan Luyken English translation by Frank J. Warnke

The Soul Considers Its Nearness to God

from **Three Songs of the Soul** SATB a cappella

Words by Jan Luyken Music by Rebecca Oswald English translation by Frank J. Warnke Gently (J = 132)mp Soprano I thought that God - head made its home far, En - throned be mpAlto I far, thought that God - head made its home En - throned a be mpTenor thought that I God - head far. En - throned be made its home mpBass I thought that God - head made its far, En - throned be home Gently (= 132)Piano mp (reh. only mf \mathbf{S} the and. of lift - ed yond moon star, And ten_ moon. the and 'ry star, And of lift - ed yond_ ten_ of lift - ed the And yond moon and ev - 'ry star, ten В yond the moon and 'ry star, And of ten lift - ed ev



















FOR PERISAL ISE

