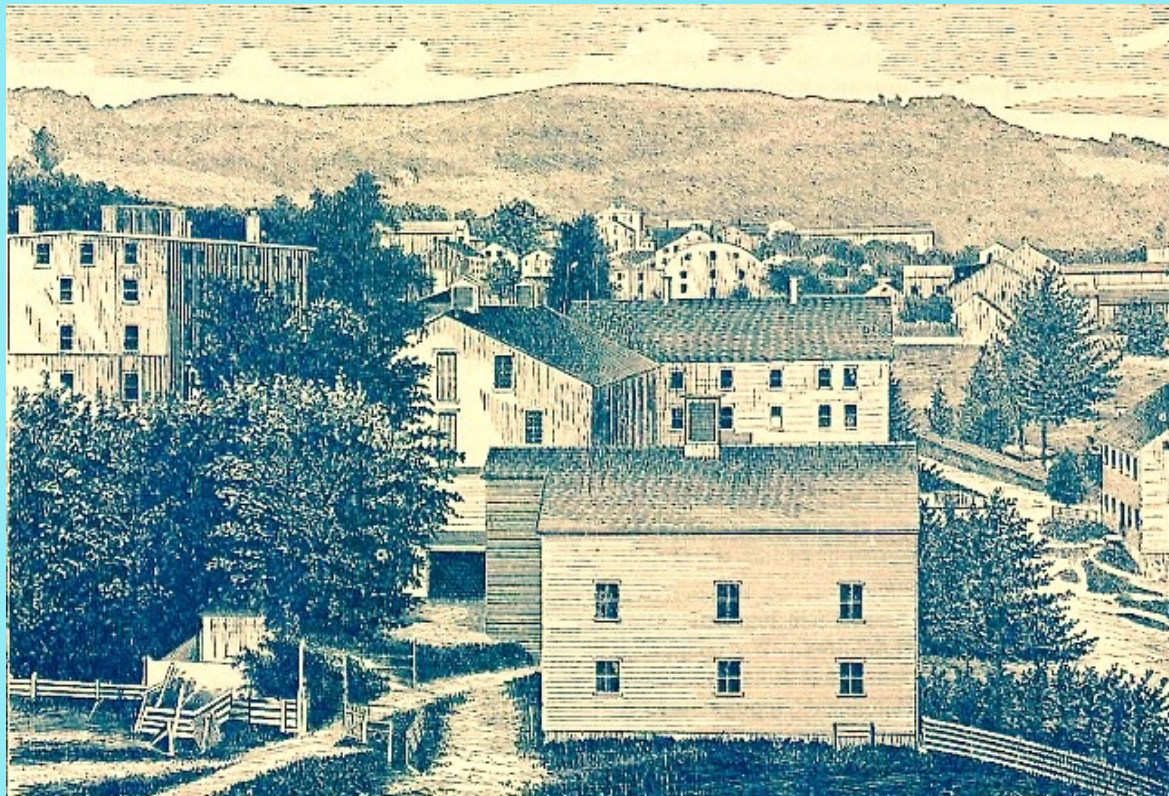


# Sweetest Music: Three Shaker Settings

*~ American anthems for SATB choir a cappella ~*



**Shaker hymns Faith's Vision, Christmas Offering & Blest Zion**

**Arranged by Christopher J. Hoh**



**HohMade Music**

4619 Seventh Street South  
Arlington, VA 22204  
U.S.A.

# Sweetest Music: Three Shaker Settings

*~ American anthems for SATB choir a cappella ~*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| I. To the Spirit Land We're Hastening (Faith's Vision)   | 4  |
| II. Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing (Christmas Offering) | 8  |
| III. Blest Zion, I Love Thee (Blest Zion)                | 12 |

## Blest Zion, I Love Thee

Blest Zion, I love thee, thou beautiful city...  
 Home, my sweet home, with the pure and the just;  
 Away, far away from turmoil and confusion —  
 From sorrows of earth — where my soul finds rest.  
 Earth hath no treasures, sin hath no pleasures,  
 I would exchange for that peace which I feel;  
 A conscience unspotted, with confidence blessed,  
 Angels my guard, and the Lord's will my seal.

*Shaker Hymn from West Gloucester, Maine  
 Collected by Frederick William Evans (1808-1893) in 1875*

This forthright hymn from Maine evidently consists of a single, eight-line stanza. Its robust melody covers the span of an octave and a half. At first the whole choir presents the tune in unison. Then sopranos and altos sing it again while tenors and basses accompany with a repeated figure on "blessed Zion." Next sopranos and altos embrace and develop the accompaniment as tenors and basses burst forth with the theme. Energy builds and they break into octaves, with sopranos and altos following in canon. The piece ends with a calm repetition of the last line. The Shakers danced and marched in their worship; this hymn seems to convey that feeling — starting strong, growing in excitement, reaching a high point and winding down in quiet confidence.

*Cover shows "The Shaker Village at Mount Lebanon, N.Y." line engraving by The Photo Engraving Company (New York) from Hind, William, "American Communities," (The Perfectionists Community; Oneida, NY: 1878), based on a photo of the Mt. Lebanon Shaker Community taken by James Irving, 1818 - 1901.*

# Blest Zion, I Love Thee

Shaker Hymn from West Gloucester

"Blest Zion"  
Arr. Christopher J. Hoh

Happy but not too fast ( $\text{♩} = 76$ )

Soprano / Alto

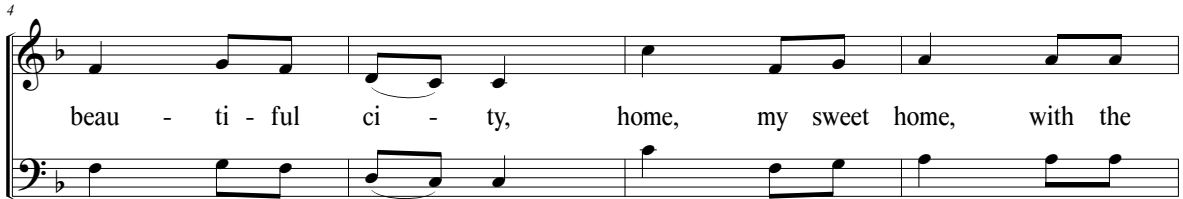
*mf* Blest — Zi - on, I love thee, thou

Tenor / Bass



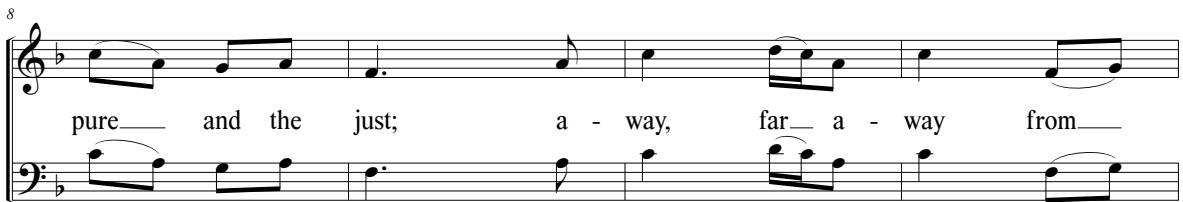
4

beau - ti - ful ci - ty, home, my sweet home, with the



8

pure — and the just; a - way, far — a - way from —



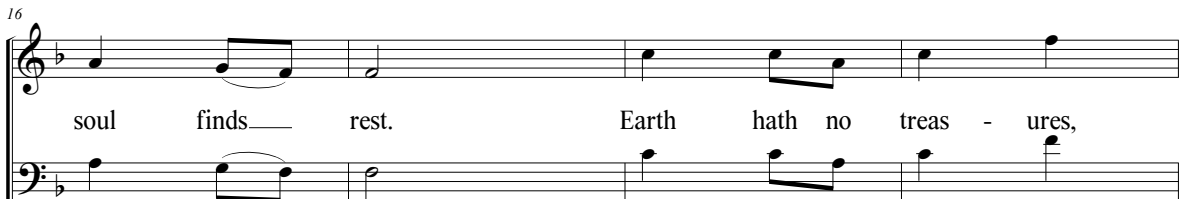
12

tur - moil and con - fu - sion, from sor - rows of earth, where my



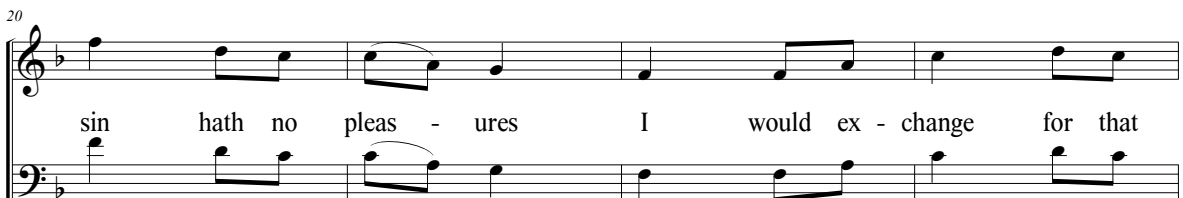
16

soul finds — rest. Earth hath no treas - ures,



20

sin hath no pleas - ures I would ex - change for that



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24

peace which I feel; a conscience un-spot-ted, with

28

con-fidence bless-ed, an-gels my guard, and the

32

Lord's will my seal. *mp* Bless-ed Zi-on, bless-ed

37

*mf* Blest Zi-on, I love thee, thou beau-ti-ful  
Zi-on, bless-ed Zi-on, bless-ed

41

ci-ty, home, my sweet home, with the pure and the  
Zi-on, bless-ed Zi-on, bless-ed

45

just; a-way, far a-way from  
Zi-on, bless-ed Zi-on,

49

tur - moil and con - fu - sion, from sor - rows of earth, where my  
bless - ed Zi - - - on, \_\_\_\_\_ bless - ed

53

soul finds rest. Earth hath no treas - ures,  
Zi - - - on, \_\_\_\_\_ bless - ed Zi - on, bless - ed

58

sin hath no pleas - ures I would ex - change for that  
Zi - on, bless - ed Zi - on, bless - ed

62

peace which I feel; A con - science un -  
Zi - - - on, \_\_\_\_\_ bless - ed Zi - on,

66

spot - ted, with con - fi - dence bless - ed, an - gels - my  
bless - ed Zi - on, bless - ed Zi - on,

70

guard, and the Lord's will my seal.  
bless - ed Zi - on, bless - - - ed \_\_\_\_\_

74 *mp*

Bless - ed Zi - on,  
Zi - on. Blest! Blest

80

bless - ed Zi - on,  
Zi - on, I love thee, thou beau - ti - ful ci - ty,

84

bless - ed Zi - on,  
home, my sweet home, with the pure and the just; a -

88

oh bless - ed Zi - on,  
way, far a - way from tur - moil and con - fu - sion, from

92

on, bless - ed Zi - on.  
sor - rows of earth, where my soul finds rest.

96 *mf*

Earth hath no treas - ures,  
Earth hath no treas - ures, sin hath no pleas - ures

100

sin hath no pleas - ures I would ex - change for that  
I would ex - change for that peace which I feel; a

104

peace which I feel; a con - science un - spot - ted, with  
con - science un - spot - ted, with con - fi - dence bless - ed,

108

con - fi - dence bless - ed, an - gels— my guard, and the  
an - gels— my guard, and the Lord's will my seal,

112

Lord's will my seal; an - gels— my— guard,  
my— *decr.* seal; *mp* an - gels— my— guard,

119

— and the Lord's will my, my seal.  
— and the Lord's will my seal.