

To The Spirit Land We're Hastening

~ for SATB choir, a cappella ~

" Faith's Vision" Shaker Hymn

Arranged by Christopher J. Hoh



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To The Spirit Land We're Hastening

"Faith's Vision"
Arr. Christopher J. Hoh

Shaker Hymn from Mt. Lebanon

Gently (♩=68)

Soprano / Alto *mf* To the spir - it land we're hast - 'ning, Gol - den

Tenor / Bass

3 mo - ments flit be - fore, While each sun - set brings us

6 near - er To its seem - ing dis - tant shore; Yet up -

9 on her snow - y pin - ions, Faith will lift our hearts to

12 see, In the life that is be - fore us, Bless - ed

15 im - mor - tal - i - ty. Oft its pearl - - - y gates are

Oft its pearl - y gates are

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18 glo - - - ry thru them come;

open - ed, Floods of glo - - - ry thru them come;

open - ed, Floods of glo - ry thru them come; And we

21 And we catch a glimpse of beau - ty— Just a fore - sight_ of our

catch a glimpse of beau - ty— Just a fore - sight_ of our

24 Oh, it is by ho - ly

home. Oh, it is by ho - ly liv - ing That we

home. — Oh, it is by ho - ly

27 gain an_ en - trance there;— For com - mun - - - ion with the

For com-mun-ion with the

30 robes pre - pare. *mp*

an - gels, Spot - less robes_ we_ must pre - pare. Yet we

mp

33 ask their min - is - tra - tion While we tar - - ry here be -

46
low, And that ev - - er round our path - way Light in -

39
creas - ing still may glow. If our lives are fraught with

42
good - ness, And the seed of love we sow, We shall

45
reap a - bun - dant bless - ing, And the joy of an - gels

48
know. *mf*

To the Spir - it land we're hast' - ning, Gold - en

51
mf
While each sun - set brings us
mo - ments flit be - fore,

54

near - er To its seem - ing dis - tant shore;
 dis-tant shore; If our

57

our lives — good - ness, love we
 lives are fraught with good - ness, And the seed of love we

60

sow, We shall reap a - bun-dant bless - ing, And the
 sow, We shall reap a - bun-dant bless - ing, And the

63

joy of an - gels know. reap
 joy of an - gels know. We shall reap a - bun-dant

66

bless - ing, And the joy of the joy of an - - -
 bless - ing, And the joy of the joy of an - - -

68

an - - - - gels know.
 joy of an - gels know.
 joy of an - gels know.

To The Spirit Land We're Hastening

To the spirit land we're hastening, golden moments flit before,
 While each sunset brings us nearer to its seeming distant shore;
 Yet upon her snowy pinions, faith will lift our hearts to see,
 In the life that is before us, blessed immortality.

Oft its pearly gates are opened, floods of glory thro' them come;
 And we catch a glimpse of beauty -- just a foresight of our home.
 Oh, it is by holy living that we gain an entrance there;
 For communion with the angels, spotless robes we must prepare.

Yet we ask their ministration while we tarry here below,
 And that ever round our pathway light increasing still may glow.
 If our lives are fraught with goodness, and the seed of love we sow,
 We shall reap abundant blessing, and the joy of angels know.

Faith's Vision, Shaker Hymn

This choral anthem presents "Faith's Vision," from the 1894 collection published for the Shaker community at Mt. Lebanon, NY, entitled *Shaker Music, Original Inspirational Hymns and Songs Illustrative of the Resurrection Life and Testimony of the Shakers*. The original music is a homophonic, three-verse hymn. In this setting, the third verse reproduces the Shaker music. In the Mt. Lebanon hymnal it is marked "Dolce," so a gentle style and moderate tempo seem suited to the aesthetic of the original. While my music seeks to elaborate and extend the hymn, I have used relatively simple harmonies, rhythms and motifs. I would like to think there is nothing in this composition that would have been alien to a Shaker musician of the 1890's. This piece also reflects, I hope, the joyful, dancing spirit for which the Shakers were known.