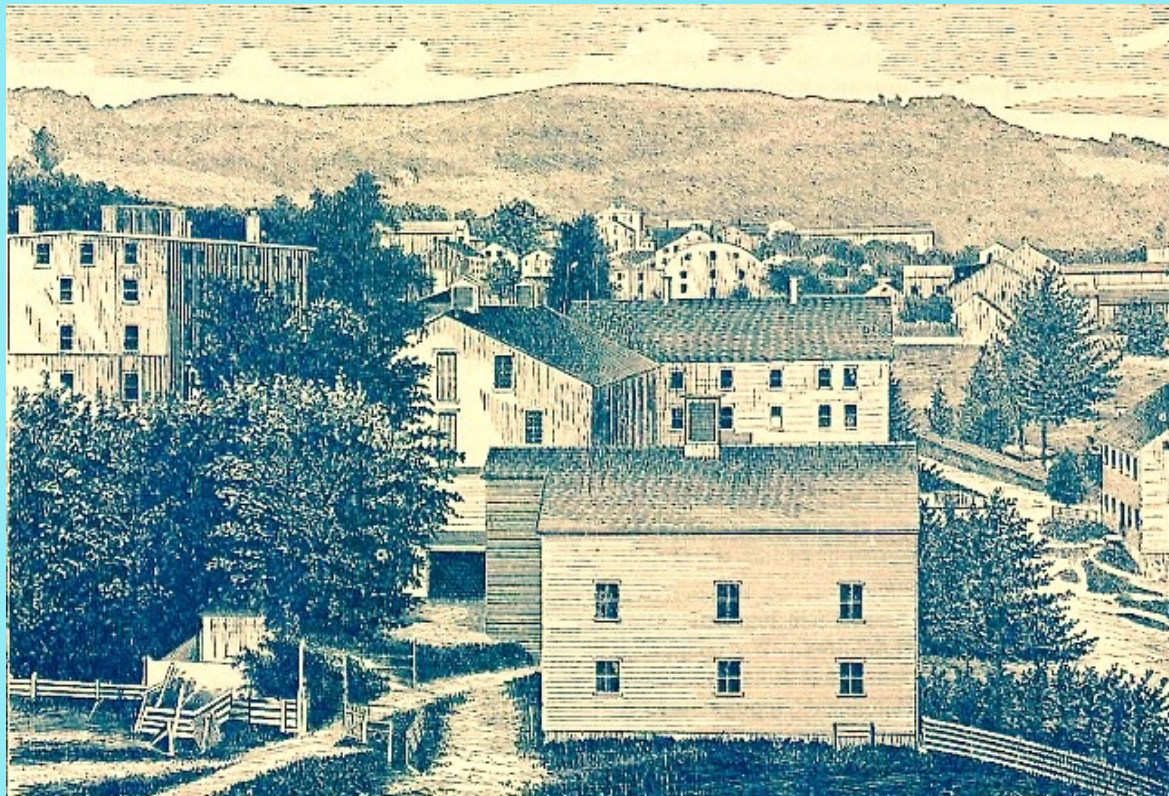


Sweetest Music: Three Shaker Settings

~ American anthems for SATB choir a cappella ~



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

Arranged by Christopher J. Hoh



HohMade Music

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~ American anthems for SATB choir a cappella ~

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| 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 |

Sweetest Music Softly Stealing

Sweetest music softly stealing o'er our hearts in tuneful chime,
 Shall in joyous notes revealing, swell the song of olden times.
 When the morning star was beaming, angels sang of peace and love;
 Many souls awoke from dreaming, hail'd the light from Heaven above.

Gladsome sounds we echo still; peace on earth, to all goodwill.

Wake we now to joy and gladness, Christ the Saviour we have found;
 Banish from our hearts all sadness, and in deeds of love abound.
 Now the fount of good unsealing, let us all our souls upfill;
 And in kindly Christian feeling breathe sweet peace and speak goodwill.

Gladsome sounds we echo still; peace on earth, to all goodwill.

Christmas Offering, Shaker Hymn

Attr. Martha Jane Anderson, 1844-1897

Collected by Frederick William Evans (1808-1893) in 1875

The unison lines in measures 1 - 8, 17 - 24, and 32 - 40 may be sung by soloists.

This anthem sets "Christmas Offering," from an 1875 hymnal published in Albany, NY. It has been attributed to Martha Jane Anderson and the Shaker community at Mt. Lebanon, NY. The first phrase (but little else) is similar to "Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing," words by G.W. Brindley, music by C. (Caleb?) Simper. This Christmas hymn is found in the monumental collection "Carols Old and Carols New" of Rev. Charles Lewis Hutchins (Boston: Parish Choir, 1916). Which hymn came first and whether one helped inspire the other are questions for further research. In any case, it is a sweet text and tune, with repeated lines providing an echo of gladsome sounds. And its message is timeless.

Sweetest Music Softly Stealing

Shaker Hymn from Mt. Lebanon
Attr. Martha Jane Anderson

"Christmas Offering"
Arr. Christopher J. Hoh

Gently ($\text{♩} = 48$)

Soprano / Alto *mp* Sweet - est mu - sic soft - ly steal - ing O'er our hearts in

Tenor / Bass

4

tune - ful chime, Shall in joy - ous notes re - veal - ing, Swell the song_ of

8

old - en times. *mf* Sweet - est mu - sic soft - ly steal - ing O'er_ our hearts in

12

tune - ful chime, Shall in joy - ous_ notes re - veal - ing, Swell the song_ of

16

old - en times. *mp* When the morn - ing star_ was beam - ing, An - gels sang of

20

peace and love; Ma - ny souls a - woke from dream - ing, Hail'd the light from

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24

Heav - en a - bove. *mf* When the morn - ing star_ was beam - ing, An - gels sang of_

28

peace_ and love; Ma - ny souls_ a - woke from dream - ing, Hail'd_ the_ light from_

32

Heav - en a - bove. (*mf*) Glad - some sounds we ech - o still, Peace on earth, to

36

all good - will. *mp* Glad - some sounds we ech - o_ still, Peace on earth, to

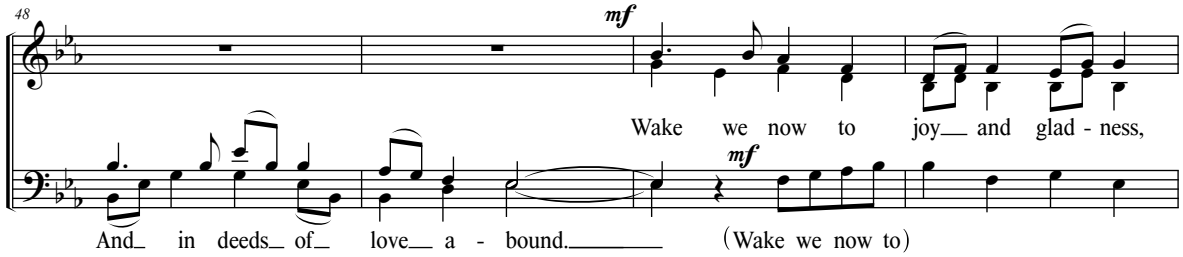
40

all good - will. *mf* Wake we now to joy_ and glad - ness,

44

Christ the Sav - iour we_ have_ found; Ban - ish from_ our hearts all sad - ness,

48 *mf*




Wake we now to joy and glad-ness,
And in deeds of love a-bound. (Wake we now to)

52 *mf*



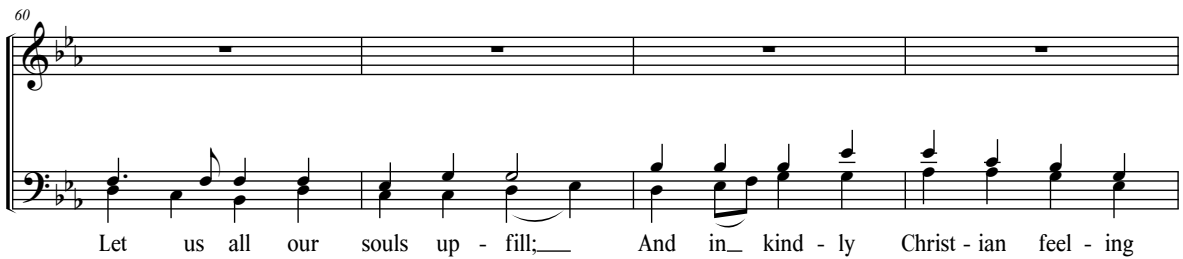
Christ the Sav-iour we have found; Ban-ish from our hearts all sad-ness,

56



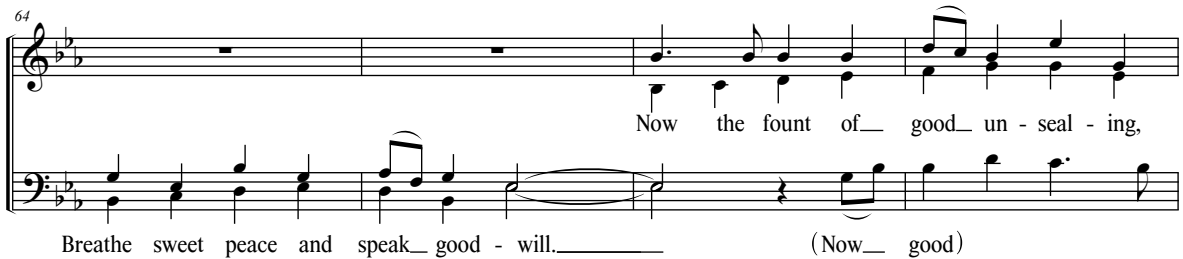
And in deeds of love a-bound.
Now the fount of good un-seal-ing,

60



Let us all our souls up-fill; And in-kind-ly Christ-ian feel-ing

64



Now the fount of good un-seal-ing,
Breathe sweet peace and speak good-will. (Now good)

68



Let us all our souls up-fill; And in-kind-ly Christ-ian feel-ing

72

Breathe sweet peace and speak good-will.

Glad - some sounds we ech - o still,

76

Glad - some sounds we ech - o still,

Peace on earth, to all good-will.

80

Slower

Peace on earth, to all good-will.

mp

Glad - some sounds we

84

p

Glad - some sounds we ech - o still, Peace on earth,

decr.

ech - - - o still, still,

87

Peace on earth, to all good-will.

Peace on earth, to all good-will.