

DAVID AVSHALOMOV

Light Dawns
in the Darkness
(Psalm 112)



SATB CHORUS (divisi)

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NOTE BY THE COMPOSER

This is a setting of a text that I have recited as a prayer every Sabbath since my wife Randi and I chose to begin a practice of Jewish observance together 35 years ago (for the sake of our sons, but also for ourselves as it turned out). It is the bookend to the Woman of Valor prayer, this one for the man who is righteous and thus need not fear evil tidings. I have always found it a comforting text, particularly the key phrase “Light dawns in the darkness for the upright, for the one who is gracious, compassionate, and just.” Those qualities are still my personal goal. I have wanted to set this text to music for a long time, naturally for chorus, and recent events in the world and our country have made it seem even more pertinent. (My *siddur* for *shabbes* does not include the final verse of the psalm about our enemies gnashing their teeth over the righteous man’s prospering.)

The setting is fairly conventional, and not too demanding for the singers. High octaves at the start depict “light” and low tritones in the men “darkness”, followed by a ritualistic chordal setting of “Hallelujah”, and then I run through the various sections of text with a series of episodes of varied music, including some simple imitative passages. A partial cadence brings a return of the light and darkness motives, followed by an almost anthem-like setting of the key phrase. The ending’s rich harmonies, echoing the opening “Hallelujah”, are meant to bring peace to the soul: “His life is exalted – in honor.”

DURATION: [4:45]

Light Dawns in the Darkness (from Psalm 112)

David Avshalomov

Alternate words are provided below the original lyrics to provide gender-neutral terms and to substitute for the Hebrew "Adonai"

Lento
♩ = 60 straight tone

Soprano *f p* *f p* *p* natural tone
Light! Light! Hal-le lu yah Hal-le

Alto *f p* straight tone *f p* *p* natural tone
Light! Light! Hal-le lu yah Hal-le

Tenor *pp* natural tone
Dark ness Dark ness Dark ness

Bass *pp* natural tone
Dark ness Dark ness Dark ness

Andante
♩ = 76

9
S. *mp* *p*
lu- yah Hal-le lu yah,

A. *mp* *p*
lu- yah Hal-le lu yah,

T. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
Hal-le lu- yah, Hal-le lu yah, Hap py is the man one

B. *p* *mp* *p*
Hal-le lu- yah, Hal-le lu yah, mmm

13 *mp*

S. Hap py is the man
one

A. *mp* Hap py is the man
one

T. 8 who re-veres A-do - nai
the Lord who great - ly de lights in God's com

B. who great - ly de lights in God's com

18 *mp* *mf*

S. Hap py is the man
one Their His de scen-dants will be hon ored

A. *mp* Hap py is the man
one *mf* His de scen-dants will be
Their

T. 8 mand - ments *mf* His de scen-dants will be hon ored
Their

B. mand - ments *mf* His de scen-dants will be
Their

22

S. His de scen-dants will be hon - ored in the land, _____ the gen er - a-tion tion of the
Their

A. hon ored _____ His de- scen-dants will be hon ored in the land, _____ the gen er - a-tion tion of the
Their

T. His de scen-dants will be hon - ored in the land, _____ *mp*
Their

B. hon ored _____ His de- scen-dants will be hon ored in the land, _____ *p*
Their



26

S. up _____ right the gen-er-a- tion of the up _____ right shall be

A. up _____ right the gen-er-a- tion of the up _____ right shall be

T. the gen-er-a-tion tion of the up _____ right the gen-er-a- tion of the up-right shall be

B. the gen-er-a-tion tion of the up _____ right the gen-er-a- tion of the up - right shall be

Poco Piu Mosso

♩ = 84

30 *f*

S. *f*
 praised! _____ His house-hold pros-pers His house-hold pros pers and his
 Their Their Their their

A. *f*
 praised! _____ His house-hold pros-pers His house-hold pros pers and his
 Their Their Their their

T. *f*
 praised! _____ His house-hold pros-pers His house-hold pros pers and his
 Their Their Their their

B. *f*
 praised! _____ His house-hold pros-pers His house-hold pros pers and his
 Their Their Their their

37 *p* *pp*

S. *p* *pp*
 right-eous-ness en-dures-for ev - er _____ His right-eous ness en-dures-for ev - er
 Their Their

A. *p* *pp*
 right-eous-ness en-dures-for ev - er _____ His right-eous ness en-dures-for ev - er
 Their Their

T. *p* *pp*
 right-eous-ness en-dures-for ev - er _____ His right-eous ness en-dures-for ev - er
 Their Their

B. *p* *pp*
 right-eous-ness en-dures-for ev - er _____ His right-eous ness en-dures-for ev - er
 Their Their

Lento

♩ = 60

Andante

♩ = 76

45 (E# = F) *f p* *f p* *p*

S. Light! Light! Light!

A. *f p* *mp*

Light! Light dawns in the

T. *pp* *p* *mp*

Dark ness Dark ness Light dawns in the

B. *pp* *p*

Dark ness Dark ness



52 *p*

S. Light!

A. dark ness_ for the up - right, for the one who is gra - cious, com - pass-ion - ate, and just.

T. dark ness_ for the up - right, for the one who is gra - cious, com - pass-ion - ate, and just.

B. *p*

Light!

58 *mp*

S. He is not a-fraid of e - vil tid - ings not a-fraid of e - vil tid - ings. His mind is firm
They are Their

A. *p*
E - vil, e - vil, e - vil, e - vil, E - vil, e - vil, e - vil, e - vil. Firm, His mind is
Their

T. *mp*
He is not a-fraid of e - vil tid - ings not a-fraid of e - vil tid - ings His mind is firm
They are Their

B. *p*
E - vil, e - vil, e - vil, e - vil E - vil, e - vil, e - vil, e - vil. Firm, His mind is
Their

63 *f* *p*

S. his mind is firm, trust-ing in A - do - nai. His heart is stead - y
their the Lord God Their

A. firm his mind is firm, A - do nai. His heart is stead - y
their the Lord God Their

T. his mind is firm, trust-ing in A - do - nai. His heart is stead - y
their the Lord God Their

B. firm his mind is firm, A - do nai. His heart is stead - y
their the Lord God Their

Poco Ritenuto

♩ = 66

Andante

♩ = 76

69 *pp* *pp* *p*

S. he will not be a - fraid. He has giv-en to the poor. His life is ex
they they have Their

A. *pp* *pp* he will not be a -fraid. He has giv-en to the poo(r).
they they have

T. *pp* *pp* he will not be a - fraid. He has giv-en to the poo(r).
they they have

B. *pp* *pp* he will not be a -fraid. He has giv-en to the poo(r).
they they have



Lento

S1 (or solo)

♩ = 60, *pp*

75 *mf* *p* *pp*

S. alt - ed in hon - or. His life is ex - alt ed in hon - or.
Their

A. *mf* *p* in hon - or. His life is ex - alt ed
Their

T. *mf* *p* in hon - or. His life is ex - alt ed
Their

B. *mf* *p* in hon - or. His life is ex - alt ed
Their

rit.

83

S.

S. *S2 pp*

A. *pp*

T. *pp*

B. *pp*

in hon or.

in hon or.

in hon or.

in hon or.

in hon or.

S A M P L E
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Songs of Innocence and of Experience, A Cappella Settings

TITLE-- Alphabetical	Level *	Dur.	Brief Opt. Div., Soli	also solo Quar tet	Type	Character	Energy/ speed	Topic	Opt. Special FX, Stage Business
Ah! Sun-Flower	M	2:10		OK	Air	Wistful, poignant	slow, limp, soft	Death, time, release	
The Angel	II	3:00	SSA, women only		Melodrama	Mysterious	slow	Age, womanhood	
The Blossom	III	1:00		*	Playful Madrigal	Fun, light	fast, light, rhythmic	Nature	
The Chimney Sweeper I	I	4:00	SSAATTBB middle		Melodrama	Ironic, ecstatic	slow fast slow	Child labor	
The Chimney Sweeper II	II	2:00			Melodrama	Bitter	moderate	Child labor	
The Clod & the Pebble	III	2:00		OK	Madrigal	Ironic. Formal	moderate	Love's illusions	
A Cradle Song	III	3:15		OK	Lullaby	Sweet with a twist	slow, soft, steady	Baby innocence, mother worry	eyes shutting, end
The Divine Image I	III	2:00		OK	Prayer	Reverent	moderate	Tolerance	
A Divine Image II	II	1:30			Aphorism	Bitter, ironic	slow, solid, full	Darkness of the soul	
A Dream (the lost ant)	M	2:00	BB end		Melodrama	Play spooky	moving, rhythmic	Lost ant	
Earth's Answer	III	2:30			Plaint	Dark	slow, strong	Forbidden love	
The Echoing Green	II	2:30			Carol, glee	Exuberant	high, rhythmic	Children's play, sleep	Bell tones
The Fly	III	1:20		*	Playful Madrigal	Witty	lively, rhythmic	Fly or Man?	eye movement, end
Freedom/Uhuru	I	4:15	opt. Bar. solo		Affirmation	Proud, African	high, strong, rhythmic	Divine soul of a slave child	Chant BG. Clapping, rhythmic movement
The Garden of Love	II	2:30		OK	Moral Madrigal	bitter, poised	intense	Forbidden love	
Hear the Voice of the Bard	III	2:45			Prophecy	Hortatory	strong	Mystery, end of night	
Holy Thursday I	III	2:00			Hymn	Hopeful	steady	Exploitation of children	
Holy Thursday II	III	3:15			Sermon	Tragic	slow	Poverty	
The Human Abstract	I	3:30		OK	Moral Madrigal	Bitter, sharp	slow	Selfishness	
Infant Joy	M	2:00	light Sopr. Solo		Air/rocking song	Sweet	moderate , rhythmic	Innocence	
Infant Sorrow	III	2:15			Blues moan	Soulful	slow, heavy	Pains of birth	moan, groan
The Lamb	M	2:20		OK	Prayer	Sweetest	gentle, soft	Lamb and Christ	
Laughing Song	I	3:40			Playful Madrigal	Hilarious	lively, rhythmic, full	Laughter and youth	Laughter, Hilarity breakdown near end
The Lilly	III	1:30		*	Nature Madrigal	Esthetic	slow, soft	Lilly vs. rose	

The Little Boy Lost/Found	II	3:30			Melodrama	Worried	moving, rhythmic	Boy lost in the marsh	
A Little Boy Lost [III]	I	4:00			Sermon	Righteous	moderate	Boy burned at the stake	
A Little Girl Lost (Ona)	II	3:00		OK	Madrigal/melodrama	Light, then heavy	lively, then slow	Forbidden young love	
The Little Girl Lost/Found (Lyca)	II	4:00			Story Madrigal	Narrative, varied	moderate	Lost girl, symbolic nature	
The Little Vagabond	II	1:45			Glee	High-spirited	lively, rhythmic	Need for ale in church	
London	III	2:00			Sermon	Gloomy	slow	Degradation in the city	
Motto to the Songs of I&E	II	2:15			Conundrum	Ironic	lively, rhythmic	The turning of human nature	
Night	III	3:00			Prayer	Sweet	moderate	Angels while we sleep	
Nurse's Song I	II	2:45	SSAATT-B end		Vignette	Innocent	moderate	Children on the Green	Echo divisi ending
Nurse's song II	III	1:30			Vignette	Bitter	moderate	Mortality	
On Another's Sorrow	III	1:30		OK	Hymn	Sweet	moderate	Compassion	
Piping down the Valleys Wild	III	2:00	SSAATTBB end		Playful Madrigal	Cheery	lively, rhythmic	The Poet's inspiration	solo whistle intro
A Poison Tree	I	3:45		OK	Moral Madrigal	Bitter	slow, intense	Revenge	
My Pretty Rose Tree	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Ironic	moderate, gentle	Spurned love	
The School Boy	II	3:30		OK	Madrigal	Ironic	lively, rhythmic	Summer school	
The Shepherd	M	1:30			Prayer	Sweet	rocking, gentle	Guarding the flock	solo whistle intro and end
The Sick Rose	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Bittersweet	slow	Love/death	
Spring	III	1:30		*	Playful Madrigal	Charming	lively, rhythmic	Children in spring	
To Tirzah	III	2:15			Chorale	Bitter	steady	Misogyny	
Tyger Tyger Burning Bright	II	2:10			Paeon	Sharp	lively, rhythmic	Fearsome nature	Eye movement end
The Voice of the Ancient Bard	I	2:00		OK	Sermon	Hortatory	moderate	Folly	

LEVEL RANKINGS:	I. Professional, Advanced University or Collegiate (NOTE: All , naturally, are suitable for pro and advanced groups.)
	II. Upper Division High School (chamber/madrigal, all-city, all-state honor), and Advanced Community or above
	III. General High School, Community College, and general Community or above
	M. Level III but ALSO suitable for Advanced Middle School (chamber/madrigal, honor): based on suitable ranges, age-appropriate subject matter

**MIXED
CHORUS**

Choral Works by DAVID AVSHALOMOV

Secular

Songs of Innocence and of Experience SATB (divisi in a few) (Wm. Blake)
Double cycle, 45 separate settings, averaging [1-4 min. ea.] *See full list overleaf.*
Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32'] SATB (divisi), solo baritone, orchestra, (or piano, can add perc.) (also version with band) (also for TTBB, below)
There's a Wind [4'] SATB (divisi), (brief S1 solo), opt. wind whistling (lyrics by composer)
There Was Another Song to Sing [4'] SATB, Alto (or Mezzo) solo, piano, cello, opt. harp (Bialik)
Gemeinsam [8'] SATB (divisi), (brief S1 solos) (Rose Ausländer) [also 4' version]
Let the Children Play [4'] SAB (or SAA), piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)
Go Ahead and Rejoice [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)
Father the Tree [4'] SATB (brief S1 solo) (Doris Avshalomov)
Song For Late Summer [4] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)
U.S. 30 in Idaho [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

Sacred

The Mixed Blessings, [12'] SSAATTBB, (*Beatitudes*—Matthew/Luke)
handbells (6-7 players)
Praise the Lord! [4:40] SATB (divisi), organ, opt. cymbal (Psalm 150)
This Sacred Space [4:45] Consecration Anthem with original congregational hymn
SATB (divisi) (brief alto solo)/organ/4 brass/timpani (text by the composer)
I Bend the Knee of My Heart [5'] SATB (divisi) (Canticle 14/Manasseh)
O Eucharist (*Columba Virtutem Illius*)—Meditation [5] SATB (divisi) (Hildegard von Bingen)
Kedushah, High Holy Days (Trad.) [5'] Cantor (solo ten. or sopr.), SATB, piano, flute
Chanukah tonight! [2:45] SATB (opt. divisi), piano, opt. tamb. (lyrics by the composer)
Also with string orchestra (or mandoline or balalaika orchestra)

WOMEN

Let the Children Play [4'] SAA, piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)
Where You Go, I Will Go (Ruth and Naomi) [12'] SSAA (brief S2, A2 soli)
Do You Believe in Angels? [9'] SSAA, 8 high strings (or organ reduction) (poem by the composer)
The Angel [3'] SSA from Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Wm. Blake)
Enchanted River [2'], SA, opt. S solo (Meredith Kennedy)

MEN

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32] Orig. version TTBB (divisi),
solo baritone, concert band (or piano, can add perc.)
The Star Spangled Banner [1:45] arranged for barbershop quartet or ensemble, TTBB
Happy Anniversary [1'] TTBB (lyrics by the composer)
Medley - Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Lennon/McCartney) [15']
transcribed for TTBB chorus and/or 5 soli, piano/bass/drums/guitar (OR concert band)

NOVELTY

The Chocolate Carol, Holiday version [4:15] (David/Randi Avshalomov)
○ SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute; (also SATB *a cappella* caroling version)
○ SSAA, piano, optional flute
Love & Chocolate, Valentine's version [4:15]
○ SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute; (also SATB solo quartet version, piano)
Goodnight Moon (M.W. Brown), Unis. Trebles, piano/keyboard (opt. flute/string qtt.) [3']
Chicken Pie [3'] arr. of "Old Joe Clark" (trad.), SS, Orff instruments, string quintet (opt.)
Happy Anniversary [1'] SATB, or SSAA, or TTBB (lyrics by the composer)
The Garlic Blessing [3'] SATB (brief divisi), piano (lyrics by the composer)
Flopsy, the Christmas Pup [4:45] SATB, piano, opt. bass, drums (lyrics by the composer)
The U.S. Air Force Fugue [3'] TTBB (parody on "Off we Go, into the Wild Blue Yonder")

