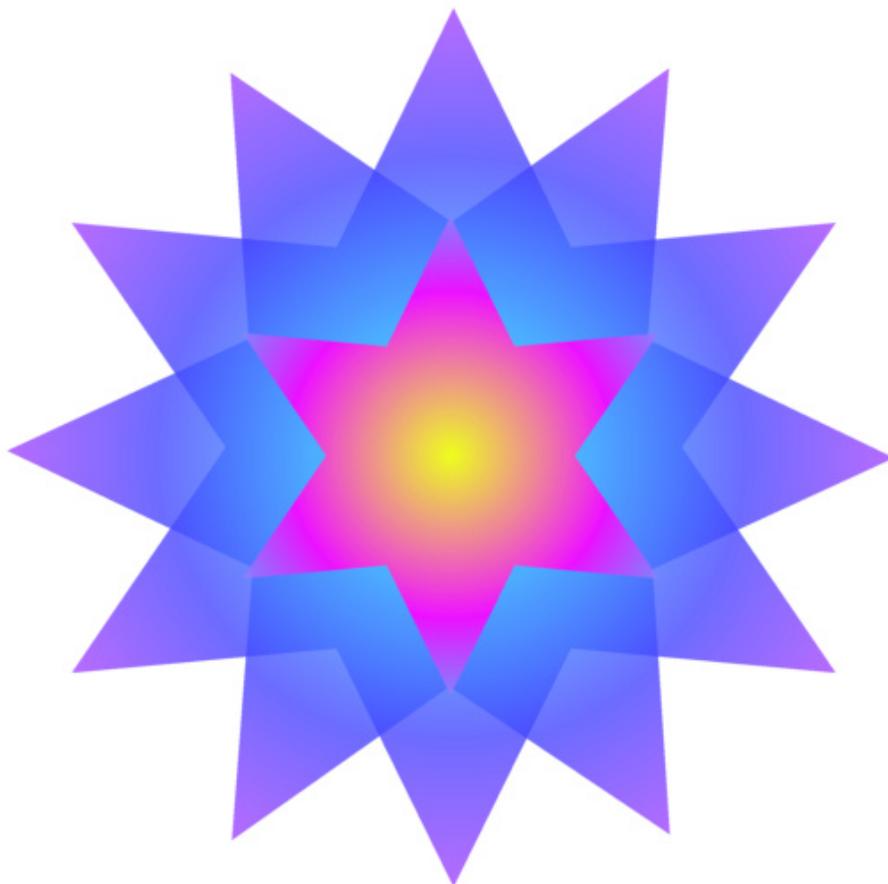


A Pure Heart



An Anthem for SAB Choir

Charles O. Beck

Swan-Cross, Ltd.
Music Publishing Division

*Dedicated to William Vollinger,
a true servant of Jesus Christ,
and a brother of encouragement.*

About the piece...

This anthem was composed using a compositional technique known as equitonalism, in which the central idea is that no one key center should be any more important than another. Thus, in the course of this short piece, the tonal center shifts twelve times, taking it through all twelve major keys.

Although the composer has used this technique on other pieces, this is the first time it has been applied to a choral work.

The text is taken entirely from the New American Standard version of the Bible.

About the composer...

Charles O. Beck is a composer of many colors. He has written in many styles, from pop-rock to very classically oriented works. He holds a master's degree in composition from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH.

He lives in Alexandria, OH, with his wife and two very spoiled cats.

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Moderato – with an easy rhythm

(♩ = 90)

Piano

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and includes some grace notes. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes. The music is in a major key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The dynamic marking is *mp*.

S

A

Who may as -

Who may as -

This system contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter at measure 5 with the lyrics "Who may as -". The piano accompaniment continues from the previous system. The dynamic marking is *mp*.

S

A

cend in - to the hill of the Lord? And who may

cend in - to the hill of the Lord? And who may

This system contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter at measure 9 with the lyrics "cend in - to the hill of the Lord? And who may". The piano accompaniment continues. The dynamic marking is *mp*.

Performance time:
approximately 3:40

13

S stand in His ho - ly place?

A stand in His ho - ly place?

B *mp* He who has clean_ hands

17

B and a pure heart, _ And who speaks truth in _ his

17

21 *more intensely*

S Search me, _ O God, and know my _

A Search me, O God, and know my _

B heart. Search me, _ O God, and know my

21

25

S heart; _____ Try me and know my an-xious thoughts; _____ (melody)

A heart; _____ Try me__ and know my an-xious thoughts; _____ And

B heart; Try _____ me and know my an-xious thoughts;

29

S See if there be an - y hurt - ful way__ in me, and

A see if__ there be an - y hurt - ful way__ in me, and

B See if there be an - y hurt - ful way__ in me, and

33 *ritard* *a tempo*

S lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

A lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

B lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

33 *ritard* *a tempo*

37

41 *rallentando* *mf*

S Cre - - ate in

A *mf* Cre - - ate in

B *mf* Cre - - ate in

41 *rallentando* *mf*

44

S me a clean heart, O God, And re - new a stead - fast

A me a clean heart, O God, And re - new a stead - fast

B me a clean heart, O God, And re - new a stead - fast

(with a hushed, desperate intensity)

48

S spir - it with - in me. Do not

A spir - it with - in me. Do not

B spir - it with - in me. Do not

pp

pp

pp

51 *p*

S cast me a - way from Your pres - ence And do not

A cast me a - way from Your pres - ence And do not

B cast me a - way from Your pres - ence And do not

51 *p*

55 *mp*

S take Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

A take Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

B take Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

55 *mp*

58

S

store to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion And sus -

58

mp

61

S

tain me with a will - ing spir - it.

61

ritard

ritard

64

A

Who may as - cend in - to the hill of the

64

a tempo *mp*

mp

B

Who may as - cend in - to the hill of the

64

a tempo *mp*

mp

67

A Lord? And who may stand in His ho - ly

B Lord? And who may stand in His ho - ly

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 67-69. It features three staves: vocal staves for parts A and B, and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'Lord? And who may stand in His ho - ly'. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand.

70 *more intensely*

S He who has clean_ hands

A place? He who has clean_ hands

B place? He who has clean_ hands

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 70-72. It features four staves: vocal staves for parts S, A, and B, and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'He who has clean_ hands'. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. The instruction 'more intensely' is written above the S vocal staff.

73

S and a pure heart, — And who speaks

A and a pure heart, — And who speaks

B and a pure heart, — And who speaks

76

S truth in his heart. Cre - ate in

A truth in his heart. Cre - ate in

B truth in his heart. Cre - ate in

poco rit. *mp* *Slightly slower (almost plaintively)*

mp *mp* *mp*

79

S me a clean heart, O God, a

A me a clean heart, O God, a

B me a clean heart, O God, a

82

ritardando

S pure heart.

A pure heart.

B pure heart.

82

ritardando

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
And who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

—*Psalm 24:3-4*

And who speaks truth in his heart.

—*Psalm 15:2*

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

—*Psalm 139:23-24*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

—*Psalm 51:10-12*

Presentation suggestion:

You may want to have the anthem text (above) read before singing the anthem. If so, you might also want to include the following related verse:

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts,
you double-minded.

—*James 4:8*



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