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Fairbank Music Publishing
Sacred Choral Series

I BLESS THEE, LORD

unison with keyboard

Nicholas Fairbank

Text: George Herbert, from *The Temple*, 1633

Paradise

I bless thee, Lord, because I GROW
Among thy trees, which in a ROW
To thee both fruit and order OW.

What open force, or hidden CHARM
Can blast my fruit, or bring me HARM,
While the inclosure is thine ARM.

Inclose me still for fear I START.
Be to me rather sharp and TART,
Then let me want thy hand and ART.

When thou dost greater judgments SPARE,
And with thy knife but prune and PARE,
Ev'n fruitfull trees more fruitful ARE.

Such sharpnes shows the sweetest FRENDE:
Such cuttings rather heal then REND:
And such beginnings touch their END.



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I Bless Thee, Lord

text: George Herbert * (1593-1633)

music: Nicholas Fairbank

Moderato (♩ = c. 88)

The piano introduction consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, marked Moderato. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

6

The vocal line begins at measure 6 with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a hymn.

1. I bless Thee, Lord, be- cause I GROW a - mong the trees, which in a
2. En - close me still for fear I START; be to me ra - ther sharp and
3. (voices *tacet* until m. 14)

The piano accompaniment continues from measure 6 to measure 9, providing a steady harmonic support for the vocal line. It features a consistent rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line.

10

The vocal line resumes at measure 10, continuing the melody from the previous section. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

ROW to Thee both fruit and or - der OW. What o - pen
TART, than let me want Thy hand and ART. When Thou dost
Such sharp-ness

The piano accompaniment continues from measure 10 to measure 13, maintaining the musical texture established in the previous section.

* George Herbert's poem is originally entitled "Paradise". Each verse of the poem pares down its rhyme word into the two others.

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14

force or hid - den CHARM can blast my fruit, or bring me
 grea - ter judge - ments SPARE, and with Thy knife but prune and
 shows the swee - test FRENDS; Such cut - tings ra - ther heal than

17 *poco rit. ultima volta* 1. & 2.

HARM while the en - clo - sure is thine ARM?
 PARE, e'en fruit - ful trees more fruit - ful ARE.
 REND; And such be - gin - nings touch their

1. & 2.

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