

SAUNDER  
CHOI

Blessed is the spot,  
and the house

(Bahá'í Prayer)

for SMATB *a cappella*

SAUNDER CHOI *music*



## **PROGRAM NOTES:**

*Blessed is the spot, and the house* is a setting of a Bahá'í prayer with the same title. The text was written by Bahá'u'lláh – known to be the founder of the Bahá'í faith: a spiritual community that believes in the essential worth of all religions and unity of all people.

The constant shifts in harmonic center represents our never-ending quest for truth, meaning, and spirituality – a carry over from my own Unitarian Universalist spiritual practice. This piece is an exploration of the constantly evolving meaning of what, where, who "God" is and what spaces are "sacred." A house? A cave? Perhaps a city? Perhaps it's everything and everywhere.

This work was commissioned by the Duke Chapel Choir and Dr. Zebulon Highben.

## **TEXT:**

Blessed is the spot, and the house,  
and the place, and the city,  
and the heart, and the mountain,  
and the refuge, and the cave,  
and the valley, and the land,  
and the sea, and the island,  
and the meadow where mention  
of God hath been made,  
and their praise glorified.

-Bahá'u'lláh

commissioned by the Duke Chapel Choir  
Dr. Zebulon M. Highben, director

# Blessed is the spot, and the house

(Bahá'í Prayer)

for SMATB a cappella

Bahá'u'lláh

Saunder CHOI

Reverent, poco rubato ♩ = 67ca  
*p floated*

Soprano  
Bles - sed is the spot, and the house,

Mezzo-soprano  
Bles - sed is the spot, and the house,

Alto  
Bles - sed is the spot, and the house,

Tenor  
*p warmly, legato*  
Bles - sed is the spot,

Bass  
*p warmly, legato*  
Bles - sed is the spot,

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)  
*p*

5

S. *mp* oh bles - sed. *mp* Bles - sed is the

M. *mp* oh bles - sed. *mp* Bles - sed is the

A. *mp* oh bles - sed. *mp* Bles - sed is the

T. and bles - sed is the house.

B. and bles - sed is the house.

Pno. *mp* *mp*

10 *sub. p* *mp*

S. place, and the ci - ty, and the heart, *mp*

M. *sub. p* place, and the ci - ty, and the heart, *mp*

A. *sub. p* place, and the ci - ty, and the heart, *mp*

T. Bles - sed is the place, *mp*

B. Bles - sed is the place, *mp*

Pno. *sub. p* *mp*

15 *mf* *pp legato*

S. oh the heart. Bles - sed is the place,

M. oh the heart. Bles - sed is the place,

A. oh the heart. Bles - sed is the place,

T. and bles - sed is the heart. hmm

B. and bles - sed is the heart. hmm

Pno. *mf* *pp*

**A** più mosso ♩ = 76ca

20 *pp* *p*

S. and the moun - tain, the

M. *p bring out* and the moun-tain, the re - fuge, and the

A. *p* and the moun-tain, the re - fuge, and the

T. *legato* Bles - sed is the heart, Bles - sed,

B. *legato* Bles - sed is the heart, Bles -

Pno. *p*

25

S. re - fuge, and the cave, oh bles - sed is the moun *mf*

M. cave, oh bles - sed is the moun *mf*

A. cave, oh *mp*

T. bles - sed. And the val - ley, the land, and the sea. *mp* *mf*

B. - sed. And the val - ley, the land, and the sea. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

30

S. - tain.

M. - tain.

A. bles - sed is the re - fuge.

T. Bles - sed is the land, and *mp*

B. Bles - sed is the land, and *mp*

Pno. *mp*

35

S. *p* And the is - land,

M. *p* And the is - land,

A. *p* And the mead - ow,

T. bles - sed is the sea.

B. bles - sed is the sea.

Pno. *p*

41

S. *poco rit.*

M.

A. the mead - ow where *p*

T. *p* And the is - land, the mead - ow where *pp*

B. *p* And the mead - - ow where *pp*

Pno.

47 **B** a little slower  $\text{♩} = 72$

S. *p* The mead - - - ow *mf* where

M. *pp* The mead - - - ow *mp* where men - tion of God hath been

A. *cresc. poco a poco* men - tion of God hath been made, where God

T. *p* God, where men - tion of God hath been made, where God

B. *mp* God, where men - tion of God hath been made,

Pno. *mp*

51 *poco rit. . . . . a tempo* *poco f*

S. *mf* men - tion of God hath been made, and their praise glo - ri - fied,

M. *mf* made, hath been made, and their praise glo - ri - fied,

A. *mf* made, where men - tion of God hath been made, and their praise glo - ri - fied,

T. *mf* made, where men - tion of God hath been made.

B. *mf* God made.

Pno. *mf* *poco f*

rall. . . . . broadly

55

S. and their praise glo - ri - fied, their praise

M. and their praise glo - ri - fied, their praise

A. and their praise glo - ri - fied, their praise

T. Bles - sed is their praise glo - ri - fied, their praise,

B. Bles - sed is their praise glo - ri - fied, their praise

Pno.

rall. . . . .

**C** Tempo I = 67

59

S. glo - ri - fied.

M. glo - ri - fied.

A. glo - ri - fied. Bles - sed is the place,

T. glo - ry, glo - ri - fied.

B. glo - ri - fied.

Pno.

64 *p* *pp*

S. Bles - sed is the heart. Bles - sed is the spot, and the

M. Bles - sed is the heart. Bles - sed is the spot, and the

A. bles - sed. Bles - sed is the spot, and the

T. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *pp*

69 *p* *mp*

S. house, oh bles - sed.

M. house, oh bles - sed.

A. house, oh bles - sed.

T. Bles - sed is the spot, and bles - sed is the house.

B. Bles - sed is the spot, and bles - sed is the house.

Pno. *p* *mp*

73

S. *p* And their praise

M. *p* And their praise

A. *p* And their praise

T. *p* Their praise

B. *p* And their praise

Pno. *p*

78

*più meno* *rit.* *pp*

S. glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied.

M. *più meno* *pp* glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied.

A. *più meno* *pp* glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied.

T. *più meno* *pp* glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied.

B. *più meno* *pp* glo - ri - fied, glo - ri - fied.

Pno. *più meno* *pp*