

Promised Land (advanced voicing)  
SATB divisi a cappella

Matilda Durham, arr. Cook

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# Promised Land

(Advanced Voicing)

Matilda Durham, arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

SATB divisi a cappella



Jonathan Campbell Incorporated

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Text:

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land,  
Where my possessions lie.

I'm bound for the promised land,  
I'm bound for the promised land;  
Oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land

No chilling winds or poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore;  
Sickness and sorrow, pain and death,  
Are felt and fear'd no more.

When I shall reach that happy place,  
I'll be forever blest,  
For I shall see my maker's face,  
And in that heart I'll rest.

- Samuel Stennet (1727 - 1795)

**Matilda Durham** (1815-1901) was an American composer and music teacher. She may be the first woman to publish music in the United States, with the hymn "Promised Land" (1835, *Southern Harmony*). Durham's musical style is characteristic of shape-note hymnody. There are abundant parallelisms, open fifths, and a rugged, determined rhythmic energy. The melodies are in the middle voice (tenor), which contributes to the idiomatic sound.

One interesting note about "Promised Land" is that Durham originally wrote it in F# minor. The hymn existed in this minor tonality for about eighty years before it was changed to F major. It is plausible that organists and editors found it easier to perform and engrave by simply removing the sharps and adding a Bb. As far as I can tell the tune is exclusively published in a major key today. It is my opinion that something is lost in F major. The intensity, color, and fervent "casting a wishful eye" is replaced with the bland contentment of F. The difficult struggle towards the "promised land" of Canaan is abandoned as though we have already arrived at the "happy land."

Jennifer Lucy Cook's arrangement ameliorates this problem by returning Durham's tune to a minor key. She also elevates the musical source material to a new level of choral artistry, bringing Durham's compositions to new audiences.

*Performance suggestion:* Similar to Dufay's *L'Homme Arme Mass*, one effective way to perform this work is to sing through the tune once, then begin the arrangement.

$\text{♩} = \text{About 66}$

*mf*  
On Jor - dan's storm - y banks I stand, and cast a wish - ful eye, To \_\_\_ Can - aan's fair and

**Chorus**  
hap - py land, Where my pos - sess - ions lie. I am bound for the pro - mised land, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm

bound for the pro - mised land, O, \_\_\_ who will come and go with me? I am bound for the pro - mised land.

**Jonathan Campbell**, BA, MSM, DMA, currently serves as Director of Music at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, MN, and is a Contributing Editor for Graphite Publishing. His music publishers include Augsburg Fortress, Concordia, Morningstar, GIA, Sacred Music Press, and Falls House. He won first prize in the Morningside Choral Composition Contest and was also awarded a Faith Partner's Residency with the American Composers Forum. Jonathan has served many churches, conducted the Chorale of the Honors Choirs S.E. MN for eight years, and has served on the faculties of Winona State University, Augsburg University, and Pomona College.



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5

*f*

S bound

A bound

T 8 Jor - dan's storm - y banks I stand, and cast a wish - ful eye To Can - aan's fair and

B bound To Can - aan's fair and

*f*

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10

*mp*

S I'm bound for the prom - ised

A I'm bound for the prom - ised

T 8 hap - py land, Where my pos - sess - ions lie. Ooh

B hap - py land, Where my pos - sess - ions lie. Ooh

*p*

*p*

*mp*

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14

S land, I'm bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am

A land, I'm bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am

T Ooh

B Ooh

Voces Feminae

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19

S bound for the prom - ised for the prom - ised land. No

A bound for the prom - ised land. la - a - a - a -

T Ooh

B Ooh

Voces Feminae

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24

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S  
chil - ling winds\_ or pois' - nous breath can reach that health - ful shore; sick -

A  
a - a - a - a la - a - a - a - a - a - a - a la - a - a - a -

T  
Ah

B  
pois' - nous breath can reach that health - ful shore; sick - ness and sor - row,

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Voces  
Feminine

28

S  
ness and\_ sor - row, pain and death, are\_ felt and\_ fear'd no more. I'm bound for the prom - ised

A  
a - a - a - a la - a - a - a - a - a - a Ah

T  
la - a - a - a - a -

B  
pain and death, are\_ felt and\_ fear'd no more. I am I'm

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Voces  
Feminine

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33

S land, I'm bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and

A

T *mf* *sub. mp* a - a - a la la - a - a - a - a - a - a la *mf* *sub. mp*

B bound for the prom ised land, I'm bound for the prom ised land, Oh

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37

S go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised land. la - a - a - a -

A la - a - a - a -

T *mf* *sub. mp* a - a - a la la - a - a - a - a - a - a la la - a - a - a -

B who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised la - a - a - a -

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41 *Legato* *mp*

S a - a - a When I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll be for - ev - er

A a - a - a When I shall

T a - a - a When I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll be for - ev - er blest, for

B a - a - a When I shall reach that

*mf* *mp*

Voices  
Feminine

46

S blest, for I shall see my mak - er's face, and in that heart I'll

A reach that hap - py place, I'll be ev - er

T I shall see my mak - er's face, and in that heart I'll rest. I am

B hap - py place, I'll be ev - er blest,

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Voices  
Feminine

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50

S rest. I'm bound for the prom - ised land, I'm bound for the prom - ised

A blest, bound land, prom - ised

T bound for the prom - ised land, I'm bound for the prom - ised land, Oh

B I'm bound, land, the prom ised

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

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54

S land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised

A land, Oh who will go? I'm bound, prom - ised

T who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised, bound for the prom - ised

B land, Oh who will go? I am bound, for the prom - ised

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

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58

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S land. Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

A land. Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

T land. Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

B land. Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

*f*

Voces  
Feminine

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62

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S bound for the prom - ised land, Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

A *tutti* bound for the prom - ised land, Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

T bound for the prom - ised land, Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

B bound for the prom - ised land, Bound for the prom - ised la - a - and, I'm

*ff*

Voces  
Feminine

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66

S bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised

A *tutti* bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised

T bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised

B bound for the prom - ised land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised

*f*

*tutti*

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Voces  
Feminine

71

S land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised bound for the

A land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised bound for the

T land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised bound for the

B land, Oh who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised bound for the

*tutti*

*tutti*

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Voces  
Feminine

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76

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S  
prom - ised bound for the prom - ised bound for the prom - ised

A  
prom - ised bound for the prom - ised bound for the prom - ised

T  
8  
prom - ised bound for the prom - ised bound for the prom - ised

B  
prom - ised bound for the prom - ised bound for the prom - ised

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81

S  
la - a - a - a - a *p*

A  
la - a - a - a - a *p*

T  
la - a - a - a - a *p*

B  
la - a - a - a - a *p*

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86 *f* *ff*

S Oh, who will come and go with me?

A Oh, who will come and go with me?

T Oh, who will come and go with me?

B Oh, who will come and go with me?

*f* *ff*

Tempo primo

91 *f* *f > p*

S I am bound for the promised land.

A I am bound for the promised land.

T I am la - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a land.

B I am la - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a land.

*f* *f > p*

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Voices  
Feminine

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