

Promised Land
SATB a cappella

VF-003

Matilda Durham, arr. Cook

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Promised Land

Matilda Durham, arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

SATB 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, 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 Composer's 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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*In honor of the legacy left by the many women who composed music before me;
premiered by the Phoenix Chorale under the direction of Christopher Gabbitas, May 2023*

Promised Land

SATB a cappella choir

Samuel Stennet (1727-1795)

Matilda Durham (1815-1901)

arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

Propelling forward ♩ = 94

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Voces Feminae

Soprano *mp* *f*
La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a I'm bound

Alto *mp* *f*
La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a I'm bound

Tenor *mp* *f*
La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a On Jor - dan's storm - y banks I stand and

Bass *mp* *f*
La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a I'm bound

Piano *mp* *f*
for rehearsal only

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Jennifer Lucy Cook (she/her) is a composer and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Jen specializes in music for the stage and screen, choral music, and pop songwriting. Recent choral commissions include Phoenix Chorale, Cantorum Chamber Choir, and Choral Arts Ensemble in MN. She is the recipient of the Chorus Austin Composition Prize, the Cantus Emerging Composer Award, the Her Voice Female Composer Prize and the Edwin Fissinger Composition Prize. She is an alumni of the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writer's Grove with Goodspeed Musicals, and her theater commissions include Full House Theatre Co., British Youth Musical Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Her musical recaps of the Bachelor recently went viral on TikTok.

Despite writing music in such a wide range of genres, Jen's music is united by a keen love for storytelling with song. She prioritizes specific, highly emotional lyrics, melodic earworms, and infectious rhythmic grooves, and conceives of every piece from a dramatic, narrative-driven perspective. More information can be found at jenniferlucycook.com.



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5

S
A
T
B

cast a wish - ful eye, To Can - aan's fair and hap - py land, Where
To Can - aan's fair and hap - py land, Where

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9

S
A
T
B

mp I'm bound for the pro - mised land, I'm
mp I'm bound for the pro - mised land, I'm
my pos - ses - sions lie Ooh
my pos - sess - ions lie Ooh

p
p

mp

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13

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

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

T
Ooh _____ Ooh _____

B
Ooh _____ Ooh _____

Voces
Feminae

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17

S
bound for the prom - ised for the pro - mised land

A
bound for the prom - ised land

T
Ooh _____

B
Ooh _____ No

mp *mp* *mp* *mf*

Voces
Feminae

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21

S No chil - ling winds or pois' nous breath can reach that health - ful

A *mp* La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a *mf* La - a - a - a - a *sub. mp* a - a - a - a *mf*

T

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

mp

25

S shore; sick - ness and sor - row, pain and death, are felt and fear'd no

A *sub. mp* La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a *mf* La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a *sub. mp* *mf*

T Ah

B ness and sor - row, pain and death, are felt and fear'd no more.

P

mp

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29

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S more. I'm bound for the pro - mised land I'm bound for the pro - mised

A Ah

T La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - la La - a - a - a - a -

B I am I'm bound for the pro - mised land, I'm

mf *mf* *mf* *sub. mp*

Voces Femine

33

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

A

T a - a - a la La - a - a - a - a - a - a la La - a - a - a - a -

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

mf *sub. mp* *mf* *sub. mp*

Voces Femine

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37

S land. La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a When I shall reach that

A *f* La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a

T *f* a - a - a la *mf* La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a When I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll

B *f* bound for the pro - mised. *mf* la - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a When

Legato mp

42

S hap - py place, I'll be for - ev - er blest, for I shall see my

A *mp* When I shall reach that hap - py

T *mf* be for - ev - er blest, for I shall see my mak - er's face, and

B I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll

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46

S ma-ker's face, and in that heart I'll rest. I'm bound for the pro - mised

A place, I'll be ev - er blest, bound

T in that heart I'll rest. I am bound for the pro - mised land, I'm

B be ev - er blest, I'm bound

mf *f* *mf*

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50

S land I'm bound for the pro - mised land, Oh who will come and

A land, pro - mised land Oh who will

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

B land, the pro - mised land, Oh who will

mf

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54

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S go with me? I am bound for the pro - mised land. Bound for the pro - mised

A go? I'm bound pro - mised land. Bound for the pro - mised

T bound for the pro - mised, bound for the pro - mised land. Bound for the pro - mised

B go? I'm bound land. Bound for the pro - mised

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59

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S land, I'm bound for the pro - mised land, Oh who will come and

A la - a - a - and I'm bound for the pro - mised land, Oh who will come and

T la - a - a - and I'm bound for the pro - mised land, Oh who will come and

B la - a - a - and I'm bound for the pro - mised land, Oh who will come and

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63

S go with me? I am bound for the pro-mised bound for the pro - mised bound for the

A go with me? I am bound for the pro-mised bound for the pro - mised bound for the

T go with me? I am bound for the pro-mised bound for the pro - mised bound for the

B go with me? I am bound for the pro-mised bound for the pro - mised bound for the

68

S pro - mised bound for the pro - mised la

A pro - mised bound for the pro - mised la

T pro - mised bound for the pro - mised la

B pro - mised bound for the pro - mised la

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74

S *p* la - a - a - a - a *f* Oh who will come and

A *p* la - a - a - a - a *f* Oh who will come and

T *p* la - a - a - a - a *f* Oh who will come and

B *p* la - a - a - a - a *f* Oh who will come and

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Voces Feminae

78

S *ff* go with me? I am bound for the promised land

A *ff* go with me? I am bound for the promised land

T *ff* go with me? La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a land

B *ff* go with me? La - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a land

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Voces Feminae

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