



The Ladder

SACRED PART-SONG FOR MIXED VOICES

John L. Hatton
(1809-1886)

John Liptrot Hatton (1809-1886) was born in Liverpool. He received a rudimentary music education as a child, but was essentially a self-taught musician. He held several appointments as organist in Liverpool and appeared as an actor on the Liverpool stage. He relocated to London in 1832 as a member of Macready's company at Drury Lane and began to establish himself as a composer. His first operetta, "Queen of the Thames", was successful in 1844; he then went to Vienna and brought out his opera "Pascal Bruno." He wrote several songs on his return to England and appeared at the Hereford festival as a singer. He also undertook piano concert tours at this time. From 1848 to 1850 he was in America, giving public and private concerts in New York City. Notably, in 1848, he shared the stage in Pittsburgh, PA with Stephen C. Foster. Returning to England, he became conductor of the Glee and Madrigal Union and director of music at the Princess's Theatre, London. He wrote operas, cantatas, incidental music, anthems, cathedral pieces, and many songs. His part-songs were regarded as some of the best of the genre. Hatton's daughter, Frances J. Hatton, emigrated to Canada in 1869, where she became a respected composer and the singing instructor at the Hellmuth Ladies College in London, Ontario.

Weary, halting by the wayside,
When the sun sank in the west,
With the rough stones for his pillow,
Israel laid him down to rest;
And in dreams he saw a ladder
Rise to heaven from earth below,
Where, ascending and descending,
Passed the angels, to and fro.

Did the vision not foreshadow
That divine and only Way
Whereby earth's benighted pilgrims
Reach the realms of endless day?
Where almighty grace and mercy
Meet repentance from below,
Still ascending and descending,
Like the angels, to and fro.

Beatrice Abercrombie (Jane Young)

The Ladder

J. L. Hatton

Andante con moto

S
Wear - y, halt - ing by the way - side, When the sun sank in the west,

A
Wear - y, halt - ing by the way - side, When the sun sank in the west,

T
Wear - y, halt - ing by the way - side, When the sun sank in the west,

B
Wear - y, halt - ing by the way - side, When the sun sank in the west,

5
S
With the rough stones for his pil - low, Is - rael laid him down to rest, Is - rael

A
With the rough stones for his pil - low, Is - rael laid him down to rest, laid him

T
With the rough stones for his pil - low, Is - rael laid him down to rest,

B
With the rough stones for his pil - low, Is - rael laid him down to rest,

The Ladder

9

S laid him down to rest; And in dreams he saw a lad - der

A down to rest; And in dreams he saw a lad - der

T down to rest;

B down to rest;

13

S Rise to heav'n from earth be - low,

A Rise to heav'n from earth be - low,

T Rise to heav'n from earth, And in dreams he saw a lad - der

B Rise to heav'n from earth be - low,

17

S Where, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Pass'd the an - gels, to and fro,

A Where, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Pass'd the an - gels, to and fro,

T Where, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Pass'd the an - gels, to and fro,

B Pass'd the an - gels, to and fro,

The Ladder

21

S *pp* Pass'd the an - gels, to and fro,

A *pp* Pass'd the an - gels, to and

T *pp* to and fro, to and fro, to and fro, to and fro,

B *pp* to and fro, to and fro, to and fro, to and fro,

25

S *rall.* *pp* to and fro, to and fro.

A *rall.* *pp* fro, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, to and fro.

T *rall.* *pp* an - gels, to and fro, to and fro.

B *rall.* *pp* an - gels, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, to and fro.

29

S *p* Did the vi - sion not fore - shad - ow That di - vine and on - ly Way

A *p* Did the vi - sion not fore - shad - ow That di - vine and on - ly Way

T *p* Did the vi - sion not fore - shad - ow That di - vine and on - ly Way

B *p* Did the vi - sion not fore - shad - ow That di - vine and on - ly Way

The Ladder

33

S Where - by earth's be - night - ed pil - grims Reach the realms of end - less day, Reach the

A Where - by earth's be - night - ed pil - grims Reach the realms of end - less day, of

T Where - by earth's be - night - ed pil - grims Reach the realms of end - less day,

B Where - by earth's be - night - ed pil - grims Reach the realms of end - less day,

37

S realms of end - less day? _____ Where al - might - y grace and mer - cy

A end - less day? _____ Where al - might - y grace and mer - cy

T end - less day? _____ Where al - might - y grace and mer - cy

B end - less day? _____ Where al - might - y grace and mer - cy

41

S Meet re - pent - ance from be - low, _____

A Meet re - pent - ance from be - low, _____

T Meet re - pent - ance from be - low, Meet re - pent - ance from be - low, _____

B Meet re - pent - ance from be - low, _____

The Ladder

45 *mf*

S Still as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Like the an - gels, to and fro,

A Still as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Like the an - gels, to and fro,

T Still as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, Like the an - gels, to and fro,

B *mf* Like the an - gels, to and fro,

49 *pp*

S Like the an - gels, to and fro,

A *pp* Like the an - gels, to and

T *pp* to and fro, to and fro, to and fro, to and fro,

B *pp* to and fro, to and fro, to and fro, to and fro,

53 *rall.* *pp*

S to and fro, to and fro.

A fro, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, to and fro.

T an - gels, to and fro, to and fro.

B an - gels, as - cend - ing and de - scend - ing, to and fro.

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