



Bow Down Low

Arranged by Johnie Dean

Description

This a cappella prayer is based on the Shaker hymn. The simplicity of the words is reflected in the setting, with several spots of unison singing. Special attention is needed to sing the opening triad in tune, as this motive is found throughout the anthem. The middle section has some interesting dissonances (mm. 34-40), though not too extreme. This will be a number your choir will enjoy singing for years.

Editor's Notes

Do not be lulled into thinking that this is an 'easy' piece because of the unison singing; it may take a fair amount of rehearsal time to get your choral group singing the unison sections in tune with good vocal blend on the sustained vowels. Also, be careful that the sustained notes are focused on the first vowel of the diphthongs, especially 'low' / 'go' / 'high' / 'vain'.

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Bow Down Low

WORDS:
Traditional Shaker Hymn

SATB, Unaccompanied

MUSIC:
Traditional Shaker Hymn
Arranged by Johnie Dean

Reverently

mp Bow down low, _____ and bend your _____ head, _____

The first system of music is in treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a half note B4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics are: "Bow down low, _____ and bend your _____ head, _____".

mp Bow down low, _____ and bend your _____ head. _____

The second system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "Bow down low, _____ and bend your _____ head. _____".

For I've come _____ to sweep this _____ house _____

The third system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "For I've come _____ to sweep this _____ house _____".

For to sweep _____ the Lord's house

The fourth system of music concludes the melody. The lyrics are: "For to sweep _____ the Lord's house".

16
 clean. *mf* Yes, I've
 † *mf* Yes, I've come

19
 come to wash and clean, From this
 † to wash and clean,

22
 floor the stains of sin;
 From this floor the stains of

25
 † For lo,
 sin. For lo, I've come a -

28
 † I've come a - gain, and I've not, not
 gain,

31

come in vain.

34

Sweep high, sweep

f

mf Sweep high,

mf

37

low, sweep low, sweep clean

mf sweep clean

mp sweep

mp

40

clean as you go. rit.

clean as you go.

rit.

43

mp Bow down low, and bend your

p Bow down low,

p

46 head, _____

bend your head, For to sweep (the) the

49 †

Lord's house clean. For to

53 †

sweep the Lord's house clean,

56 †

clean, clean. (n)

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