

Song Title: The Lord Is My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23

Musical Conduit: Karalee S. Johnson

Summary: This psalm of David praises God for being his (and our) shepherd and describes some of the wondrous work He does for us on our behalf as the Good Shepherd.

History: I was reading in my daily devotional about shepherds and their jobs. They are responsible for leading their sheep to a protective fold every night and calling their own sheep out of the fold every morning to lead them out to pasture. The shepherd is responsible to find sufficient food and water while protecting sheep from predators, rescuing any who have wandered, and caring for any weak or sick sheep. The shepherd lives with his/her flock 24/7 and sleeps across the door of the fold at night to protect the flock from and to fend off wolves. It is a humble and exhausting life. The Savior referred to himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, John 10:14) as he does all of this and more for us, often without our realizing it and certainly often without our thanking Him for it. I thought, "I wish I could write a song about that," but I didn't know any scriptures that described the job of a shepherd like this. Then Psalm 23 came to mind which describes some of the things about shepherd as explained in the devotional. Then the song came.

♩ = 120-130 *Performance Time approx 3 minutes*

♩ = 120-130

Pedal throughout

7

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want. He mak-eth me to

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13

lie down in green pas - tures:_____ he_____ lead-eth me be - side the still_____ wa -

This system contains measures 13 through 18. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a long horizontal line indicating a continuation of the note after 'pastures'. The piano accompaniment is written for grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp. It features chords and moving lines in both hands, with a long horizontal line over the treble staff between measures 16 and 17.

19

ters. He re - stor - eth my soul:_____ he_____ lead-eth me in the paths of

This system contains measures 19 through 24. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody includes a long horizontal line after 'soul:'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands, featuring a long horizontal line over the treble staff between measures 22 and 23.

25

right - eous - ness_____ for his name's_____ sake.

This system contains measures 25 through 30. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody includes a long horizontal line after 'ness'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands, featuring a long horizontal line over the treble staff between measures 28 and 29.

31

31

38

38

Yea, though I walk through the val-ley of the sha - dow of

44

44

death, I will fear no e - vil: for thou art with me; thy

51

51

rod and thy staff they com - fort me.

57

Thou pre - par - est a ta - ble be - fore____ me in the pre - sence

This system contains measures 57 through 62. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 57, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is visible at the start of the piano part.

63

of____ mine____ en - e - mies;____ thou a - noin - test my head____ with

This system contains measures 63 through 68. The vocal line has a long melisma over the word 'mies' that extends into measure 64. The piano accompaniment includes a prominent sustained chord in the right hand during the vocal melisma, with a decrescendo hairpin at the end of the system.

69

oil;____ my____ cup run-neth o - ver.____ Sure-ly

This system contains measures 69 through 74. The vocal line features a melisma over the word 'ver.' that extends into measure 70. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern, featuring a decrescendo hairpin at the end of the system.

75

good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me all the days of my life:_____

This system contains measures 75 through 80. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in grand staff. The music is in a common time signature. The lyrics are: "good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me all the days of my life:_____".

81

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for -

This system contains measures 81 through 85. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in grand staff. The music is in a common time signature. The lyrics are: "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for -".

86

ev - er._____ The Lord is my shep - herd._____

rit. *rall.*

8va--
inverted arpeggiated chord - top down

This system contains measures 86 through 90. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in grand staff. The music is in a common time signature. The lyrics are: "ev - er._____ The Lord is my shep - herd._____". The piano part includes markings for *rit.* (ritardando) and *rall.* (rallentando). The final measure features a *8va--* marking and a note with the instruction *inverted arpeggiated chord - top down*.