

Be thou my vision

A meditation on the Irish hymn
for violin and piano

John Frederick Paul



John F Paul Music

Instruments

Violin

Piano

Program Notes

The piece is based upon the Irish hymn “Be thou my vision”. The 19th-century words adapted from a most-likely 8th-century prayer and set to an Irish folksong entitled “Slane” have provided encouragement and solace many times in my life. Beginning a new chapter in life afforded me the opportunity to reflect upon the music and the words. The result, more of a fantasia rather than a theme and variations, could have a place in a recital hall or worship setting.

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Be thou my vision

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Moderato ♩ = 104 *simply and thoughtfully*

Violin

Piano

f

p

8

17

23

f

p

Be thou my vision

25

p

36

38

mf

p

f

8va.....

43

poco rit.

45

a tempo

lightly

mp

pp

p

(8).....

48

54

60

66

72

ritardando

75

a tempo

vigorously

pp

f

78

6 *p* *f* 6 6

This system contains measures 78 through 83. The right-hand part features a melodic line with sixteenth-note runs and rests, marked with dynamics *p* and *f*. The left-hand part provides a harmonic accompaniment with sustained chords and moving bass lines.

84

86 *p* *f* 6

This system contains measures 84 through 89. Measure 86 is highlighted with a box. The right-hand part continues with melodic patterns, including a sixteenth-note run in measure 89. Dynamics *p* and *f* are indicated. The left-hand part maintains a steady accompaniment.

90

p *f* *ff*

This system contains measures 90 through 95. The right-hand part features a melodic line with a seven-note run in measure 94. Dynamics *p*, *f*, and *ff* are used. The left-hand part provides a rich harmonic texture with sustained chords.

96

99 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *expansive*

This system contains measures 96 through 101. Measure 99 is highlighted with a box and labeled *expansive*. The right-hand part has a melodic line with dynamics *ff*, *f*, *ff*, and *f*. The left-hand part features a more active accompaniment with moving lines in both hands.

103

ff f

This system contains measures 103 through 108. The vocal line begins with a *ff* dynamic and features a melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures, with dynamics *f* and *ff* indicated.

109

113

This system contains measures 109 through 114. The vocal line continues with a melodic line, marked with accents and slurs. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggiated patterns. A box containing the number 113 is placed above the vocal staff at the start of measure 113.

115

Ritenu to a tempo

This system contains measures 115 through 118. The vocal line features a melodic line with slurs and ornaments. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures. The tempo marking *Ritenu to a tempo* is placed above the vocal staff at the start of measure 115.

119 *ritardando* **120** *piu mosso*

ff *p* *mp*

124 *allargando*.....

mf *f* *f*

128 *a tempo*

ff *fff* *ff* *fff*