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Canticle of
the Virgin
from Fifteen Songs

James Kevin Gray

Text translation: Donald Flanell Friedman

SATB a cappella

James Kevin Gray

James Kevin Gray was born in Westminster, SC, in 1976. He is a graduate of Winthrop University, where he studied under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Edgerton. Kevin has taught as a chorus teacher on the middle, junior, and senior high school levels as well as on the collegiate level as the director of the Winthrop University Jazz Voices. Since 2003, he has been the director of music at River Hills Community Church in Lake Wylie, SC.

Note

I came across this beautifully crafted piece of literature in 2005 while perusing *An Anthology of Belgium Symbolist Poets*,* a recently published book written by a dear friend, Dr. Donald F. Friedman.

The overarching message that love, grace, and mercy, can overcome sin or wrong doing, appealed to me as I have needed to hear such a powerful message of hope many times in my life.

Feeling inspired, I spent the next week composing this choral setting with a strong desire to share the gift and impact of this text with others.

* The translation is included in Donald Flanell Friedman, *An Anthology of Belgian Symbolist Poets*, Peter Lang Publishing/the Belgian Francophone Library.

For my friend and colleague, Michael A. Miller, Jr.

Canticle of the Virgin

from Fifteen Songs

SATB a cappella

Maurice Maeterlinck
English Translation by
Donald F. Friedman

James Kevin Gray

Tenderly ♩ = 55
mp

Soprano
Alto

For eve - ry soul that weeps — and eve - ry sin that

Tenor
Bass

mp

4

rit. a tempo

fades, — I o - pen in the depth of stars my

o - pen

7

hands so

hands — full of grace. — No sin can sur - vive — when

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11 *mf*

love has spoken. No soul can die, no soul can

mf

16 *mp*

die, no soul can die, When love has wept,

mp

21 *p* *mp* *mf*

When love has wept. When love has

p *mp* *mf*

wept, when love has wept, has

25

wept. And if love goes a-stray on

wept.

28

path - ways here be - low, Its tears will

31

find me, Its tears will find me, Its

36

tears will find me, and will nev - er be lost.

40

When love has wept, When love has
nev - er lost.

44 *Cresc.*

wept, No soul can die, No soul can

48 *f* *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

die, no soul can die. When

f *mp*

52 *p*

love has, When love has wept no soul can die, when love has

p

56 *rit.* *pp* *solo*

Wept, love solo has

love has wept, When love has wept.

pp

wept, has wept.

wept, has wept.

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