

For the choir of St. Paul's Church, Nantucket

# It is a Thing Most Wonderful

Motet for SATB a cappella

Bishop W. W. How

Richard Busch

**Reverently; in flexible, speechlike rhythm**

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices, and a piano accompaniment. Each voice part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The lyrics are: "It is a thing most wonderful, Almost too wonderful". The piano part is labeled "For rehearsal only" and features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score includes a large, semi-transparent watermark that reads "DRAFT COPY".

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der-ful to be, That God's own Son should come from

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Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'der-ful to be, That God's own Son should come from'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

10

heav'n, And die to save a child like me. And yet I

heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I

heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I

heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I

*pp* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'heav'n, And die to save a child like me. And yet I', 'heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I', 'heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I', and 'heav'n, And die to save a child like me. Yet I'. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings: *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). Performance directions include *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) and *a tempo*. There are also breath marks (7) above the vocal lines.

14

know that it is true: He chose a poor and hum - ble lot, —

know that it is true: He chose a poor and hum - ble lot, —

know that it is true: He chose a poor and hum - ble lot, —

know that it is true: He chose a poor and hum - ble lot, —

14

19

*a bit slower*  
*pp* *poco*

And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, — For love of those who

*pp* *poco*

And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, — For love of those who

*pp* *poco*

And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, — For love of those who

*pp* *poco*

And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, — For love of those who

19

**a tempo (fluidly)**

23 *p*  
 loved him not. I some-times think a - bout the cross,  
*p (fluidly)*  
 loved him not. I some-times think a - bout the cross,  
*p (fluidly)*  
 loved him not. I some-times think a - bout the cross,  
*p (fluidly)*  
 loved him not. I some-times think a - bout the cross,

**riten. a tempo**

26 *pp* *mf*  
 And shut my eyes, and try to see The  
*pp* *mf*  
 And shut my eyes, and try to see The  
*pp* *mf*  
 And shut my eyes, to see The  
*pp* *mf*  
 And shut my eyes, to see The

26

29 *sf* (9) *sf* *f*

cruel nails, and crown of thorns, And Je - sus cru - ci -

*sf* (9) *sf* *f*

cruel nails, and crown of thorns, And Je - sus cru - ci -

*sf* (9) *sf* *f*

cruel nails, and crown of thorns, And Je - sus cru - ci -

*sf* (9) *sf* *f*

cruel nails, and crown of thorns, And Je - sus cru - ci -

33 *mf*

fied \_\_\_ for me. But ev - en could I see him die,

*mf*

fied \_\_\_ for me. But ev - en could I see him die,

*mf*

fied \_\_\_ for me. But ev - en could I see him die,

*mf* *p*

fied \_\_\_ for me. But ev - en could I see him die, I

33

38 *p* poco a poco cresc. (9)

I should but see a lit - tle part Of

*p* poco a poco cresc.

I should but see a lit - tle part \_\_\_\_\_

*p* poco a poco cresc. (9)

I should but see a lit - tle part Of

poco a poco cresc. (9)

should but see, \_\_\_\_\_ but see a lit - tle part Of

38

42 *sempre cresc.* (9) *ff*

that — great — love, love which, like a fire, Is

*sempre cresc.* *ff*

(9) (9) (9) (9)

— Of that — love, of that great love which, like a fire, Is

*sempre cresc.* *ff*

that great love, \_\_\_\_\_ of that great love which, like a fire, Is

*sempre cresc.* *ff*

42

that great love, \_\_\_\_\_ of that great love which, like a fire, Is

46

al - ways burn - ing in his heart. And yet... And *p* ten.

al - ways burn - ing in his heart. And yet... And *p* ten.

al - ways burn - ing in his heart. And yet... And *p* ten.

al - ways burn - ing in his heart. And yet... And

52

yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame with - in my

yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame with - in my

yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame with - in my

yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame with - in my

58 (move ahead) *pp*

heart, And I will love thee more and more, —

heart, And I will love thee more and more, —

heart, And I will love thee more and more, —

heart, And I will love thee more and more, — (9)

58 heart, And I will love thee more and more,

63 (9) *rit.* *pp*

Un-til I see, un-til I see thee as thou art.

(9) *pp*

Un-til I see, un - til I see thee as thou art.

(9) *pp*

Un-til I see, un-til I see thee as — thou — art.

(9) *pp*

Un - til I see, un - til I see thee as — thou — art.

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