



My soul to God,
my heart to thee

Henry Leslie
(1822-1896)

Henry David Leslie (1822-1896) was born in London, England. He studied the cello as a youth, later playing in the Sacred Harmonic Society. In 1855, he organized an a cappella singing society. The society grew to 200 voices and became known as "Henry Leslie's Choir." The choir won numerous international competition prizes and enjoyed a strong reputation for singing unaccompanied music, both ancient and modern. He also became conductor of the Guild of Amateur Musicians. In 1864, Leslie established a National College of Music, but the college survived only two years. In 1878, Leslie and others made another attempt to form a national music school. This effort was successful, becoming the predecessor of the Royal College of Music. After he retired, he founded the Oswestry School of Music and its Festival of Village Choirs. Throughout his life, he was a champion of amateur choral musicians. He composed symphonies, oratorios, sacred works as well as chamber music, piano music and many part-songs.

“I see the swelling sail in motion,”
A Breton said, on bended knee;
“I’ll seek my fortune on the ocean,
As fortune will not visit me.
I shall return some day or other,
Pray dry thine eyes, attend to me;
Whate’er may happen, dearest Mother,
My soul to God, my heart to thee.

The seamen, singing at their leisure,
Proclaimed his fortune would be small,
That he would give his heart to pleasure,
Forget his mother, lose his soul:
His thoughts were straying far and near,
While gazing on the stormy sea,
Repeating still, “My Mother dear,
My soul to God, my heart to thee.”

At length returning with the treasure,
Which he amassed beyond the main,
His bosom glowed with joy and pleasure,
His Mother he would see again,
And free her from all thought and fear
Of sorrow, care, and poverty,
Repeating still, “My Mother dear,
My soul to God, my heart to thee.”

Alas! his heart was sorely smitten,
Her face again he ne’er should see;
Upon her tomb this line was written,
“My son, we’ve parted, follow me!”
He read it through a blinding tear,
Exclaiming on his bended knee,
“In heaven and earth, my Mother dear,
My soul to God, my heart to thee.”

Talhaiarn, née John Jones (1810-1869)

My soul to God, my heart to thee

Henry Leslie

♩ = 108

S
A
T
B

"I see the swell - ing sail in mo - tion," A Bre - ton said, on

S
A
T
B

bend - ed knee; "I'll seek my for - tune on the o - cean, As for - tune will not

cresc. *f*

S
A
T
B

vi - sit me. I shall re - turn some day or o - ther, Pray dry thine eyes, at -

p

My soul to God, my heart to thee

12 *cresc.* *f*

S tend to me; What - e'er, what - e'er may hap - pen,

A tend to me; What - e'er, what - e'er may hap - pen,

T tend to me; What - e'er, what - e'er may hap - pen,

B tend to me; What - e'er, what - e'er may hap - pen,

16 *p*

S dear - est Mo - ther, dear - est Mo - ther, My soul to God, my

A dear - est Mo - ther, dear - est Mo - ther, My soul to God, my

T dear - est Mo - ther, dear - est Mo - ther, My soul to God, my

B dear - est Mo - ther, dear - est Mo - ther, My soul to God, my

19

S heart to thee. The sea - men, sing - ing at their lei - sure, Pro -

A heart to thee. The sea - men, sing - ing at their lei - sure, Pro -

T heart to thee. The sea - men, sing - ing at their lei - sure, Pro -

B heart to thee. The sea - men, sing - ing at their lei - sure, Pro -

My soul to God, my heart to thee

23

S claim'd his for - tune would be small, That he would give his heart to

A claim'd his for - tune would be small, That he would give his heart to

T claim'd his for - tune would be small, That he would give his heart to

B claim'd his for - tune would be small, That he would give his heart to

cresc.

26

S plea - sure, For - get his mo - ther, lose his soul: His thoughts were stray - ing

A plea - sure, For - get his mo - ther, lose his soul: His thoughts were stray - ing

T plea - sure, For - get his mo - ther, lose his soul: His thoughts were stray - ing

B plea - sure, For - get his mo - ther, lose his soul: His thoughts were stray - ing

f *p*

30

S far and near, While ga - zing on the stor - my sea, Re - peat - ing, re -

A far and near, While ga - zing on the stor - my sea, Re - peat - ing, re -

T far and near, While ga - zing on the stor - my sea, Re - peat - ing, re -

B far and near, While ga - zing on the stor - my sea, Re - peat - ing, re -

cresc.

My soul to God, my heart to thee

34

S peat - ing still, *f* "My Mo-ther dear, my Mo-ther dear, My
p

A peat - ing still, *f* "My Mo-ther dear, my Mo-ther dear, My
p

T peat - ing still, *f* "My Mo-ther dear, my Mo-ther dear, My
p

B peat - ing still, *f* "My Mo-ther dear, my Mo-ther dear, My
p

38

S soul to God, my heart to thee." At length re - turn - ing with the

A soul to God, my heart to thee." At length re - turn - ing with the

T soul to God, my heart to thee." At length re - turn - ing with the

B soul to God, my heart to thee." At length re - turn - ing with the

43

S trea - sure, Which he a - mass'd be - yond the main, His

A trea - sure, Which he a - mass'd be - yond the main, His

T trea - sure, Which he a - mass'd be - yond the main, His

B trea - sure, Which he a - mass'd be - yond the main, His

My soul to God, my heart to thee

46 *cresc.* *f*

S bo - som glow'd with joy and plea - sure, His Mo - ther he would

A bo - som glow'd with joy and plea - sure, His Mo - ther he would

T bo - som glow'd with joy and plea - sure, His Mo - ther he would

B bo - som glow'd with joy and plea - sure, His Mo - ther he would

49 *p*

S see a - gain, And free her from all thought and fear Of sor - row, care, and

A see a - gain, And free her from all thought and fear Of sor - row, care, and

T see a - gain, And free her from all thought and fear Of sor - row, care, and

B see a - gain, And free her from all thought and fear Of sor - row, care, and

53 *cresc.* *f*

S po - ver - ty, Re - peat - ing, re - peat - ing still, "My

A po - ver - ty, Re - peat - ing, re - peat - ing still, "My

T po - ver - ty, Re - peat - ing, re - peat - ing still, "My

B po - ver - ty, Re - peat - ing, re - peat - ing still, "My

My soul to God, my heart to thee

57 *pp*

S Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My soul to God, my

A Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My soul to God, my

T Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My soul to God, my

B Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My soul to God, my

60 *Più lento* ♩ = 76 *ppp*

S heart to thee." A - las! his heart was sore - ly smit - ten, Her

A heart to thee." A - las! his heart was sore - ly smit - ten, Her

T heart to thee." A - las! his heart was sore - ly smit - ten, Her

B heart to thee." A - las! his heart was sore - ly smit - ten, Her

63

S face a - gain he ne'er should see; Up - on her tomb this line was writ - ten, "My

A face a - gain he ne'er should see; Up - on her tomb this line was writ - ten, "My

T face a - gain he ne'er should see; Up - on her tomb this line was writ - ten, "My

B face a - gain he ne'er should see; Up - on her tomb this line was writ - ten, "My

My soul to God, my heart to thee

69 *cresc.* *f* *p*

S son, we've part - ed, fol - low me!" He read it through a

A son, we've part - ed, fol - low me!" He read it through a

T son, we've part - ed, fol - low me!" He read it through a

B son, we've part - ed, fol - low me!" He read it through a

72

S blind - ing tear, Ex - claim - ing on his bend - ed knee, "In

A blind - ing tear, Ex - claim - ing on his bend - ed knee, "In

T blind - ing tear, Ex - claim - ing on his bend - ed knee, "In

B blind - ing tear, Ex - claim - ing on his bend - ed knee, "In

76 *ppp* *poco accel.* *cresc.* *Tempo 1mo.*

S hea - ven and earth, In hea - ven, in hea - ven and

A hea - ven and earth, In hea - ven, in hea - ven and

T hea - ven and earth, In hea - ven, in hea - ven and

B heav'n and earth, In heav'n, in hea - - - ven and

My soul to God, my heart to thee

80

S *f* earth, _____ *p* my Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My

A *f* earth, _____ *p* my Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My

T *f* earth, _____ *p* my Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My

B *f* earth, _____ *p* my Mo - ther dear, my Mo - ther dear, My

83

S *morendo* soul to God, my heart to thee, _____ My Mo - ther dear."

A *morendo* soul to God, my heart to thee, My Mo - ther dear, My Mo - ther dear."

T *morendo* soul to God, my heart to thee, My Mo - ther dear, My Mo - ther dear."

B *morendo* soul to God, my heart to thee, _____ My Mo - ther dear."

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David Anderson
SHORCHOR Music
1706 NE 177th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155 USA

