

O SACRED ORACLES OF TRUTH

From "Belshazzar" (1744)

Edited by Ebenezer Prout

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Largo, un poco piano (♩=72)

CONTRALTO

PIANO *mp*

c. 8^{ve} ad lib.

sa - - - cred, sa-cred o - ra-cles of truth, O liv-ing spring of pur-est

p

joy, O spring— of pur-est joy, of pur-est joy, ————— By day be

The first system of music consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are: "joy, O spring— of pur-est joy, of pur-est joy, ————— By day be". The piano accompaniment features a flowing eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line in the left hand.

ev-er in my mouth, And all my nightly thoughts em - ploy, And all — my nightly

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ev-er in my mouth, And all my nightly thoughts em - ploy, And all — my nightly". The musical notation remains consistent with the first system, showing the continuation of the vocal melody and the piano accompaniment.

thoughts em - ploy, — And all, and all my night-ly thoughts em - ploy.

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "thoughts em - ploy, — And all, and all my night-ly thoughts em - ploy.". The musical notation shows the continuation of the vocal melody and the piano accompaniment.

Who e'er with-hold at-ten-tion due Neglect them.

The fourth system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Who e'er with-hold at-ten-tion due Neglect them.". The musical notation shows the final notes of the vocal melody and the piano accompaniment.

selves, despising you, Neglect, — neglect themselves, neglect, — neglect themselves, despising

- ing you, — neglect, — neglect themselves, — neglect them-

Adagio *Tempo I*

selves, despising you. O sacred, sacred oracles of truth, O

colla voce

sa - cred o - ra - cles of truth, O living spring of purest joy,

By day be ev - er in my mouth, And all my night-ly thoughts, —

And all my night-ly thoughts em-ploy, And all my night-ly

thoughts em - ploy, — And all my night-ly thoughts, — my thoughts em-
Adagio
colla voce

ploy. *Tempo I*

Segue Recitative, "Rejoice, my countrymen" (page 148) ad lib. (See Preface.)