

I Kings 8

Larghetto $\text{♩} = 72$

SOLOMON'S PRAYER [O Lord my God]
ANTHEM

Samuel Sebastian Wesley
Ed Douglas Brooks-Davies

Soprano (S) Alto (A) Tenor (T) Bass (B)

Organ

cresc.

O Lord my God, O Lord my God, hear thou the pray'r thy

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O Lord my God, O Lord my God, hear thou the pray'r thy

O Lord my God, O Lord my God, hear thou the

ser--- vant pray-- eth, thou res--- pect un--- to his pray'r, res--- pect un---

ser--- servant pray-- eth, have thou res--- pect un--- to his pray'r, res--- pect un---

ser--- servant pray-- eth, have thou res--- pect un--- to his pray'r, res--- pect un---

pray'r thy ser-vant pray-- eth, have thou res--- pect, res--- pect un---

2

to his pray--- er. Hear thou in heav'n thy dwel---ling place: and when thou
 to his pray--- er. Hear thou in heav'n thy dwel---ling place: and when thou
 to his pray--- er. Hear thou in heav'n thy dwel---ling place: and when thou
 to his pray--- er. Hear thou in heav'n thy dwel---ling place:

 hear-- est, Lord----- for-- give,--- hear thou in heav'n thy dwel--- ling place:---
 hear-- est, Lord----- for-- give,--- hear thou in heav'n thy dwel--- ling place:---
 hear-- est, Lord, for-- give,--- hear thou in heav'n thy dwel--- ling place:---
 and when thou hear-- est, for-- give, --- hear thou in heav'n thy dwel--- ling place: ---

3

mf

and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for---

mf

and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for---

mf

and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for---

mf

and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for---

p < >

give,---- for--- give,----- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est,--- Lord, for---

p < >

give,---- for--- give,----- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est,--- Lord, for---

p < >

give,---- for--- give,----- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est,--- Lord, for---

p < >

give,---- for--- give,----- for--- give:----- O Lord, for---

4

The musical score consists of four staves of music for a four-part choir (SATB). The top three staves are in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in common time. The lyrics are as follows:

give,--- for--- give,--- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for---give,---
 give,--- for--- give,--- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord,--- for---give,---
 for---give,--- for--- give,--- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, give,---
 give,--- for--- give,--- for--- give,----- and when thou hear--- est, Lord, for--- give.
 hear--- est,--- Lord,--- for--- give,---
 hear--- est,--- Lord,--- for--- give,---
 hear--- est,--- Lord,--- for--- give,---
 hear--- est,--- Lord,--- for--- give,---

Dynamics and performance instructions include: *cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*, *p*, *** cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*, *cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*, *cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*, *cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*.

*** This may be substituted for the foregoing three bars if the treble part be sung by a female. [W's note]*

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NOTE: copy-text, S.S.Wesley, Anthems, vol. I [Twelve Anthems] (London and New York 1853), pp. 255-9. All indications of tempo, dynamics, etc. as in the original (the first published edition).

This is the final work in Wesley's splendid collection. Unassuming and simple, it sits almost lost at the end; but that, presumably, is the point. Wesley's collection, which had appeared in print only after much painful delay, is his monumental offering to God, as the temple is Solomon's. With Solomon, Wesley makes his offering in humility and with supplication ('And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray towards this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive' (I Kings 8:30); 'the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded' (I Kings 8:27)). With the end of Anthems, vol. I we see this prickly genius at a moment of utter self-abnegation before his God.