# The Shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?

## Alistair Brown

For 3-part choir, with optional solos: Soprano, Alto and Baritone/All Men or Soprano, Tenor and Bass

Text from Christmas by George Herbert

The first verse and chorus may be sung by either 3 soloists (1 per part), or by the full choir.

The remaining verses and choruses should be sung by the full choir.

#### Verse 1

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be? My God, no hymne for thee? My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds Of thoughts, and words, and deeds. The pasture is thy word; the streams, thy grace Enriching all this place.

Chorus

His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine, Till ev'n his beams sing, and my musick shine.

Verse 2

Shpeherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers Out-sing the day-light houres. Then we will chide the sunne for letting night Take up his place and right: We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should Himself the candle hold.

Chorus

(His beams...)

#### Verse 3

I will go searching, till I finde a sunne Shall stay, till we have done; A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly, As frost-nipt sunnes look sadly. Then we will sing, and shine all our own day, And one another pay:

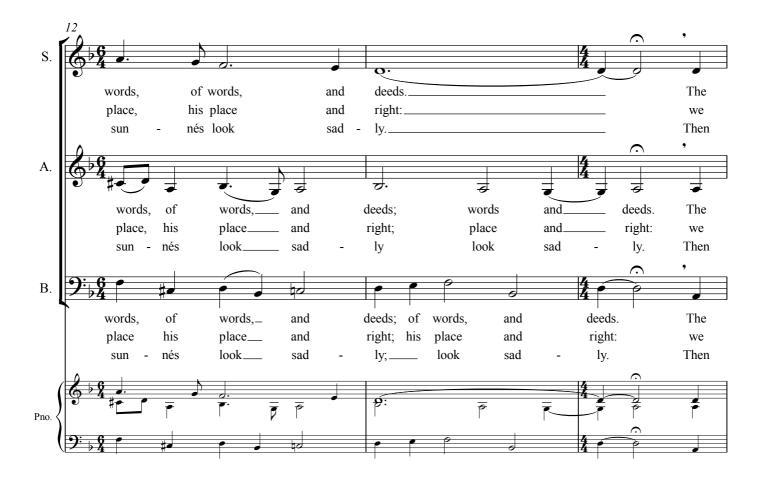
> Chorus (His beams...)

### The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?

(An excerpt from Christmas)

Text by George Herbert Music by Alistair Brown (1593-1633) Molto Rubato; =c.100 <u>6</u> 4 Soprano Q 1.The shep-herds and shall I be? sing; si - lent 2.Shep - herd my and flock shall all sing, and pow'rs. 3.I will go search ing, till I finde sunne. а Alto -1.The be?\_ shep-herds shall sing; I si lent \_ 2.Shep - herd and flock all my sing, and pow'rs\_ 3.I will go search ing, till Ι finde sunne. • • • Baritone 1.The shep-herds shall I sing and si lent be, sil - ent 2.Shep - herd and flock shall sing, and all my pow'rs. 3.I will till finde go search ing, I а sunne, finde а <del>6</del> 4 Piano (optional) S. My God, hymne for thee?. no thee? For My soul's а out - sing the day - light houres, the houres .. Then we will shall stay till will - ing we have done, have done. А А ₿o My God, no hymne for thee? For thee? My soul's а day - light houres. Then we will out - sing the houres, the shall stay till we have done, have done. A will - ing В. be? (My) God, no hymne for thee? No hymne for thee? My soul's а out - sing the day - light houres, the day - light houres. Then we will sunne (shall) stay till we have done, till we have will - ing done. А Pno.











\* On the final chorus, the Altos and Baritones may split to include the bracketed notes if desired.