

# OCP Choral Series

## BE THOU MY VISION

for Assembly, SATB Choir, Optional Descant, Keyboard and Optional String Quartet

Words: Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

MO BHOILE 10 10 10 10  
Stephen Dean

**INTRO** *Legato* (♩ = ca. 56)

**VERSES 1-3**

Descant

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Keyboard

*p*

[S/A unison] 1. Be thou my  
[SATB] 2. Be thou my  
[SATB, opt. solo] 3. Be thou my  
(a cappella)

Text: 10 10 10 10; Irish, 8th cent.; tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, fr. *Poem Book of the Gael*, 1912, alt. Music © 1971, 2002, Stephen Dean. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

*Optional solo v.3*

3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight; \_\_\_\_\_

1. vi - sion, O Lord of my heart, naught be all  
 2. wis - dom, be thou my true Word; I ev - er  
 3. breast - plate, my sword for the fight; be thou my

3. be thou my ar - mour, and be thou my might,

1. else to me \_\_\_\_\_ save that thou art; \_\_\_\_\_ thou my best  
 2. with \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and thou with me, Lord; \_\_\_\_\_ thou my great  
 3. ar - mour, and be thou my might, \_\_\_\_\_ thou my soul's

3. thou my soul's shel - ter, raise thou me

1. thought in the day and the night, wak - ing and  
 2. Fa - ther, and I thy true son; thou in me  
 3. shel - ter, and thou my high tower, raise thou me

3. heav'n - ward, hea-ven-ward, Power of my power.

1. sleep - ing, thy pres-ence my light.  
 2. dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 3. heav'n - ward, O Power of my power. Mm

\* If interlude is not played, go to v. 4

OPTIONAL INTERLUDE String quartet (or keyboard)

The first system of the optional interlude consists of two staves, both of which contain rests for the first four measures. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4.

The second system begins at measure 12. The upper staff is labeled "Melody in alto" and starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lower staff starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns with triplets. A large watermark "Preview" is overlaid on the page.

The third system begins at measure 16. The upper staff features a melodic line with triplets and a fermata over the final note. The lower staff provides harmonic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. A large watermark "Preview" is overlaid on the page.

The fourth system begins at measure 19. The upper staff continues the melodic line with triplets. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with triplets and eighth notes. A large watermark "Preview" is overlaid on the page.

⊕ VERSE 4

*Sung if interlude is omitted*

[T/B unison]

*mf* 4. Rich-es I heed not, nor man's emp-ty

<sup>22</sup> *End of optional interlude*

4. praise, thou mine in - her - i - tance through all my

4. days; thou, and thou on - ly, the first in my

4. heart, \_\_\_\_\_ high King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art!

VERSE 5

5. High King of hea - ven, when bat - tle is

*a tempo (slightly slower)*

5. done, grant hea - ven's joy to me, O bright hea - ven's

5. sun; Christ of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, still be my

5. vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## Performance Notes

The singing should be restrained and not exceed the marked speed. The optional interlude before verse 4 could be played on piano or organ if there are no string instruments. The melody (second violin) should be prominent. If organ and piano are both available, piano should be used in verse 4.

—Stephen Dean

# Be Thou My Vision

VIOLIN 1

MO BHOILE  
Stephen Dean

INTRO *Legato* (♩ = ca. 60)    VERSE 1    VERSE 2    VERSE 3

INTERLUDE (Optional)

VERSE 4    VERSE 5 *a tempo (slightly slower)*



# Be Thou My Vision

VIOLIN 2

MO BHOILE  
Stephen Dean

INTRO *legato* (♩ = ca. 60)

VERSE 1

VERSE 2

VERSE 3

INTERLUDE (Optional)

VERSE 4

VERSE 5 *a tempo (slightly slower)*

# Be Thou My Vision

VIOLA

MO BHOILE  
Stephen Dean

INTRO *legato* (♩ = ca. 60)

VERSE 1

9

VERSE 2

9

Musical notation for the Intro and the first two verses, showing rests for 9 measures each.

VERSE 3

Musical notation for the first line of Verse 3.

Musical notation for the second line of Verse 3.

INTERLUDE (Optional)

Musical notation for the first line of the Interlude.

Musical notation for the second line of the Interlude.

Musical notation for the third line of the Interlude, featuring triplets.

VERSE 4

9

VERSE 5 *a tempo* (slightly slower)

Musical notation for the first line of Verse 4 and the start of Verse 5.

voices

Musical notation for the second line of Verse 5.

Musical notation for the third line of Verse 5, featuring triplets.

Musical notation for the fourth line of Verse 5, featuring triplets.

# Be Thou My Vision

CELLO

MO BHOILE  
Stephen Dean

INTRO *legato* (♩ = ca. 60)

VERSE 1 9

VERSE 2 9

VERSE 3

INTERLUDE (Optional)

VERSE 4

9

VERSE 5

*a tempo (slightly slower)*

voices

## Assembly Edition

BE THOU MY VISION MO BHOILE

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, be thou my true  
 3. Be thou my breast - plate, my sword for the  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty  
 5. High King of hea - ven, when bat - tle is

1. heart, naught be all else to me — save that thou  
 2. Word; I ev - er with — thee, and thou with me,  
 3. fight; be thou my ar - mour, and be thou my  
 4. praise, thou mine in - her - i - tance — through all my  
 5. done, grant hea - ven's joy to me, O bright hea - ven's

1. art; thou my best thought in the day and the  
 2. Lord; thou my great Fa - ther, and I thy true  
 3. might, thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high  
 4. days; thou, and thou on - ly, the first in my  
 5. sun; Christ of my own heart, what - ev - er be -

1. night, — wak - ing and sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 2. son; — thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 3. tower, — raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Power of my power.  
 4. heart, — high King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art!  
 5. fall, — still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: 10 10 10 10, Irish, 8th Century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931), versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935),  
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