

commissioned by Joyce Michelini in honor of her father, Marc Michelini,  
and in celebration of his fiftieth year of service at The Church of the Advent, Boston, Massachusetts

# THE ALTAR

George Herbert (1593–1633)

Nicholas White

*Calmly, with great sensitivity* (♩ = ca. 72)

**Soprano** *mp* thy ser-vant rears, \_\_\_\_\_

**Alto** *mp* A bro-ken al-tar, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ thy ser-vant

**Tenor** *mp* A bro-ken al-tar, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ thy ser-vant

**Bass** *mp* \_\_\_\_\_ thy ser-vant

**Keyboard** (for rehearsal only)

5

\_\_\_\_\_ made of a heart, and ce-ment-ed with tears: whose parts are

rears, made of a heart, and ce-ment-ed with tears: whose *p*

rears, made of a heart, and ce-ment-ed with tears: whose *p*

rears, made of a heart, and ce-ment-ed with tears: whose *p*

9

as thy hand did frame; no work-man's tool hath

parts are as thy hand did frame; no work-man's tool hath

parts thy hand did frame; no tool hath

parts thy hand did frame; no tool hath

13 Soprano Solo

*mp*

A heart a - lone is such a stone,

*p*

touched the same. A heart a -

*p*

touched the same. A heart a -

*p*

touched the same. A heart a -

*p*

touched the same. A heart a -

18 *mf* *mf*

as noth-ing but thy pow'r doth cut. Where-fore each part of  
lone is such a stone. My hard heart  
lone is such a stone. My hard heart  
lone is such a stone. My hard heart  
lone is such a stone.

21 *mf* *slight broadening*

my hard heart meets in this frame, to praise thy Name. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ meets in this frame, to praise thy Name. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ meets in this frame, to praise thy

\_\_\_\_\_ meets in this frame, to praise thy

stone, \_\_\_\_\_ this frame, to praise thy

*slight broadening*

25 S *mp* *pp* *mf*

That if I chance to hold my peace, \_\_\_\_\_ these stones to

A *sub. pp* *pp* *mf*

Name. \_\_\_\_\_ If I hold my peace, \_\_\_\_\_ to

T *sub. pp* *pp* *mf*

Name. \_\_\_\_\_ If I hold my peace, \_\_\_\_\_ to

B *sub. pp* *pp* *mf*

Name. \_\_\_\_\_ If I hold my peace, \_\_\_\_\_ to

29

praise thee may not cease. O let thy bless-ed sac-ri-fice be

praise thee may not cease. O let thy bless-ed sac-ri-fice be

praise thee may not cease. O let thy bless-ed

praise thee may not cease. O let thy bless-ed sac-ri-fice be

32

mine, and sanc-ti-fy this al-tar to be thine.

mine, this al-tar to be thine.

sac-ri-fice be mine, this al-tar to be thine.

mine, and sanc-ti-fy this al-tar to be thine.

GEORGE HERBERT

The Altar

A broken ALTAR, Lord, thy servant rears,  
Made of a heart, and cemented with tears:  
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame;  
No workman's tool hath touched the same.

A HEART alone  
Is such a stone,  
As nothing but  
Thy pow'r doth cut.  
Wherefore each part  
Of my hard heart  
Meets in this frame  
To praise thy Name.

That if I chance to hold my peace,  
These stones to praise thee may not cease.  
O let thy blessed SACRIFICE be mine,  
And sanctify this ALTAR to be thine.