## Choral Series

## Like the Deer

Solo/Unison and Guitar



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**Speed:** The tendency will be to perform this piece too fast. The tempo marking of (J = 112) is a perfect speed. This is a moderately slow tempo that is in keeping with the quiet mood of the song.

**Liturgical Use:** Since it is based on Psalms 42-43, it is a perfect responsorial psalm to follow the first reading. It might also be used effectively as a communion meditation, especially during the season of Advent.

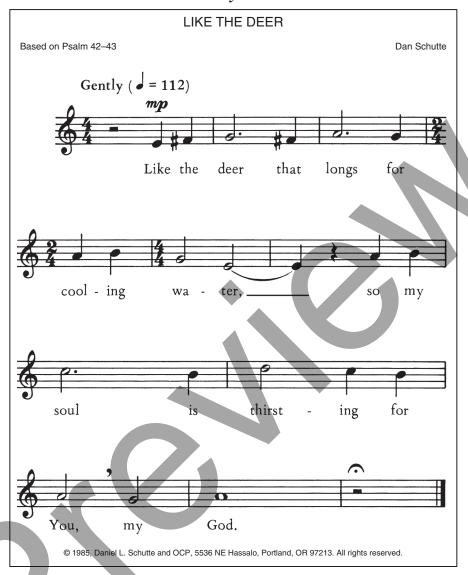
**Feel and Mood:** The power of this setting of the psalms lies in its simplicity. The mood here is one of ache and longing for God, but with a quiet reassurance that God will indeed respond to our calling. There is a certain starkness to the expression of our petition here that gives it an added poignancy.

**High Points:** The high points of the piece correspond to the highest pitches in the melody line. One of these points appears in the refrain on the word "thirsting"; the other comes at the end of each of the verses.

**Performers:** The congregation should join the choir in singing the refrain each time. The verses, however, are best performed by a soloist since they require special care to nuance the meaning of the text.

**Degree of Difficulty:** Easy-medium difficulty. Neither the accompaniment nor the vocal parts should present much difficulty. The keyboard player should take care not to rush the congregation into the refrain. Allow the song to "breathe."

## Assembly Edition



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