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God Be in My Head
SATB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar

Barbara Bridge

oCP **CHORAL SERIES**

God Be in My Head

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Preview



God Be in My Head

Sarum Primer, 1558

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(♩ = 54-60) *With rubato*

mp

Soprano
Alto

God be in my head and in my un - der - stand - ing.

Tenor
Bass

mp

D Bm Em F#sus4 F#

*Keyboard

mp

4

God be in my eyes and in my look - ing. God be in my

Bm A D F#m

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*Optional *a cappella*.

8

mouth and in my speak - ing. God be in my

Bm Em A F#m

cresc.

11

heart and in my think - ing. God be at my

Bm G D/F# Em D Asus4 A Bm

dim. *p*

14

end and at my de - part - ing.

G D

poco rit. *(dim.)*

Composer Notes

The author of the prayer “God Be in My Head,” is unknown. The first trace of this very moving text is in French, dating from around 1490. The English text is found in a Book of Hours dated 1514. It was then printed in the *Sarum (Salisbury) Primer* of 1558. It became known as the Sarum Prayer and has remained a favorite prayer of Christians. During Lent 2021, (and during the COVID-19 pandemic), I meditated on this beautiful prayer. A melody began to form around the words, and this short choral piece is the result.

There are many options for performance. If sung once, unaccompanied, the piece is less than a minute in length. It could also be played first by organ or piano before the voices enter. The recording presents an additional option beginning with solo voice and classical guitar, followed by choir with accompaniment and finally, choir *a cappella*. “God Be in My Head,” is well suited as an anthem or a short Communion Meditation.

—Barbara Bridge

Preview

