

If It Be Thy Pleasure

S.S.A.A., a cappella

If it be Thy pleasure,
make me to grow as a tender herb
in the meadows of Thy grace.

As a tender herb,
may the gentle winds
of Thy will stir me up
and bend me into conformity
with Thy pleasure.
If it be Thy pleasure, so may I grow.

So may my movement
and my stillness
be wholly directed by Thee,
be wholly directed by Thee.

If it be Thy pleasure,
make me to grow as a tender herb
in the meadows of Thy grace,
that the gentle winds
of Thy will may stir me up
and bend me into conformity
with Thy pleasure,
in such wise that my movement
and my stillness
may be wholly directed by Thee.

Prayers and Meditations of Bahá'u'lláh, page 240

(approx. 4' 00")

dedicated to the Ladder for the Soul Choir

based on the writings of
Bahá'u'lláh

If It Be Thy Pleasure

S.S.A.A., a cappella

David Nelson Miller

(2012, ASCAP)

Musical score for rehearsal number 1. The score consists of five staves: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, and a rehearsal keyboard. The key signature is three flats, and the time signature is common time (indicated by a '3'). The tempo is approximately 108 BPM. The vocal parts sing the lyrics "so may I grow," while the rehearsal keyboard provides harmonic support. Measure 1 starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note, and finally a dotted half note.

Musical score for rehearsal number 5. The score consists of four staves: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, and Alto 2. The key signature is three flats, and the time signature is common time (indicated by a '3'). The tempo is approximately 108 BPM. The vocal parts sing the lyrics "so may I grow," with dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). Measure 5 begins with a dotted half note followed by a half note, then a dotted half note, and finally a half note.

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If It Be Thy Pleasure, p. 3

10

(A) *mp*

S 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, make me to grow as a ,

S 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, make me to grow as a ,

A 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, make me to grow as a ,

A 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, make me to grow as a ,

(A) *mp*

16

S 1 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a ,

S 2 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a ,

A 1 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a ,

A 2 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a ,

22

(B)

S 1 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up— and , no breath

S 2 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up— and , no breath

A 1 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up— and , no breath

A 2 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up— and , no breath

(B)

28

S 1 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure. ☺ , rit.

S 2 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure. ☺ , rit.

A 1 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure. ☺ , rit.

A 2 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure. ☺ , rit.

(B)

☺ = If you're in tune, smile.

If It Be Thy Pleasure, p. 5

34

C a tempo

S 1

If it be Thy pleasure, so may I

S 2

a tempo

A 1

a tempo

A 2

a tempo

If it be Thy pleasure, so may I

If it be Thy pleasure, so may I

C a tempo

If it be Thy pleasure, so may I

If it be Thy pleasure, so may I

40

S 1

grow, so may I grow. So may my

S 2

grow, so may I grow. So may my

A 1

grow, so may I grow. So may my

A 2

grow, so may I grow. So may my

C

piano/bass part harmonic support

46

D

S 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)*

S 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)*

A 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)*

A 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)*

D

52

Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , pp

S 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , pp

A 1 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , pp

A 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh)

pianoforte

58

(E)

S 1 , , (pp)
move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

S 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

A 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
, , (deh)

A 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

(E), ,

64

S 1 , (pp),
Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

S 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

A 1 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
, (deh)

A 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

(F)

71

S 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, , make me to grow as a

S 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, , make me to grow as a

A 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I grow, make me to grow as a

A 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I grow, make me to grow as a

(F)

77

S 1 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a

S 2 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a

A 1 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a

A 2 ten - der herb in the mead - ows of Thy grace. As a

83

(G)

S 1 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up — and

S 2 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up — and

A 1 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up — and

A 2 ten - der herb, may the gen - tle winds of Thy will stir me up — and

(G)

no breath

no breath

no breath

89

S 1 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure.

S 2 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure.

A 1 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure.

A 2 bend me in - to con - form - i - ty with Thy pleas - ure.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

95

H a tempo

S 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I

S 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I

A 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I grow, so may I

A 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I grow, so may I

H a tempo

101

grow, _____, so may I grow. So may my

S 1 grow, _____, so may I grow. So may my

S 2 grow, _____, so may I grow. So may my

A 1 grow, _____, so may I grow. So may my

A 2 grow, _____, so may I grow. So may my

H a tempo

107

I

S 1 , , (pp)
move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

S 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

A 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
, , (deh)

A 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

I, , , (deh)

113

Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , , ppp

S 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , , ppp

A 1 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , , ppp

A 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed by Thee. So may my
(deh) , , ppp

I, , , (deh)

J

119

S 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

S 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

A 1 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

A 2 move - ment — and my still - ness be whol - ly di - rect - ed by
(deh)

J

125

S 1 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

S 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

A 1 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

A 2 Thee, _____ be whol - ly di - rect - ed ____ by Thee. So may I grow,
(deh)

132

K *pp*

S 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I rit.

S 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I rit.

A 1 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I rit.

A 2 If it be Thy pleas - ure, so may I rit.

K *pp*

138

S 1 grow, _____ (rit.) so may I grow. _____

S 2 grow, _____ (rit.) so may I grow. _____

A 1 grow, _____ (rit.) so may I grow. _____

A 2 grow, _____ (rit.) so may I grow. _____

K *pp*