

Program Notes

O Niske Vane is the fifth movement of *Angel of Light*, a cantata based on Shaker texts and melodies. Adapted from two Shaker anthems from 1840, *O Niske Vane* serves as a dialogue between soprano soloist and chorus, featuring English language text and a refrain in an “unknown tongue.” The use of non-lexical vocables and unknown tongues are common elements of early Shaker music and a prominent focus of *Angel of Light*. The haunting and affirmational refrains in *O Niske Vane* should be sung with expressive warmth and depth of feeling. While initially these words may appear unintelligible, their beauty and meaning emerge in performance.

Text

O niske vane, niske vane
I am an angel of light from the holy Selincekane.
O niske vane, niske vane
I have come to bring glad tidings of joy to the
house of Israel,
and bring from your dwelling a spirit of peace,
of meekness and love.
O niske vane, niske vane
So draw near, all ye people, and bow low,
the angels surround you with thousands of blessings,
and their sweetest praises sound.
O niske vane, niske vane
O niske vane, niske vane

Pronunciation

O niske vane, niske vane
[o 'nis.kə 'va.ne, 'nis.kə 'va.ne]
Selincekane
[se.lin.sə.'ka.ne]

—Shaker anthems, New Lebanon, New York, 1840,
and Canterbury, New Hampshire, 1840, adapt.

from *Angel of Light* (8778)

Sweet Angels Come Nearer	8779
Lovely Angels	8780
Vum Vive Vum	8781
O Niske Vane	9251
Beautiful Treasure	8782
With My Blessing I Have Blessed You	8783

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For biographical information visit:
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Commissioned by the Capitol Chorale; Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

O Niske Vane

from *Angel of Light*

for Soprano Solo and SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

Shaker Anthems adapt. K. S.

With joy ♫ = ca. 69

Kevin Siegfried
(ASCAP)

Soprano Solo

mp dolce

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne, I
 am an an - gel of light, an an - angel of light, from the
 ho - ly, ho - ly Se - lin - ce ka - ne.

13 **Warmly**

p

S O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 A *p* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 T *p* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 B1 *p* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 B2 *p* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

for rehearsal only

Text: Shaker anthems, New Lebanon, New York (1840), and Canterbury, New Hampshire (1840), adapt. (PD).

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17 *mp*

Solo

I have come to bring glad ti - dings of joy to the

21

house of Is - rael, and bring from your dwell - ing a

24

spir - it of peace, of meek - ness and love.

27 *p*

S O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

A O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

T O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

B1 O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

B2 O nis - ke va - ne

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31 *mf emphatically*

Solo

So draw near, so draw near, all ye people, and

35 *p dolce*

bow low low low, the an - gels sur - round you with

40

thou - sands of bless - ings, and their sweet - est prais - es

45

Solo

sound.

S1 *p dolce*

the an - gels sur - round you with thou - sands of

S2 *p dolce*

the an - gels sur -

9251

6

49

Musical score for voices S1, S2, A, T, and piano/bass part. The key signature is G major (two sharps). The vocal parts sing in four-part harmony, with the piano/bass part providing harmonic support. The lyrics describe blessings and angels surrounding the listener.

S1: blessings, and their sweet - est prais - es
S2: round - you with thou - sands of bless - ings, and their
A: the an - gels sur - round - you with thou - sands of
T: the an - gels sur -
piano/bass: (harmonizing chords)

53

Continuation of the musical score from measure 53. The key signature remains G major (two sharps). The vocal parts continue their harmonious singing, with the piano/bass part maintaining the harmonic foundation.

S1: sound, the an - gels sur - round - you with thou - sands of
S2: sweet - est prais - es sound, and their
A: bless - ings, and their sweet - est prais - es
T: round - you with thou - sands of bless - ings, and their
B: the an - gels sur - round - you with thou - sands of
piano/bass: (harmonizing chords)

bless - ings, and their sweet - est ____ prais - es ____ sound.

sweet - est ____ prais - es ____ sound.

sound, and their sweet - est ____ prais - es ____ sound.

⁸ sweet - est ____ prais - es ____ sound.

bless - ings, and their sweet - est ____ prais - es ____ sound.

mf

S O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - - ne

A O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - - ne

T O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - - ne

B1 O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - - ne

B2 O nis - ke va - - ne

mf

66

Solo

mp

molto rit.

p

S

mp

p

A

mp

p

T

mp

p

B1

mp

p

B2

mp

p

molto rit.

2:45
2020

