

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

From the
Odes of Solomon

Three settings for unaccompanied mixed choir

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From the
Odes of Solomon

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon Duration 5'

From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon Duration 5'

From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon Duration 5' 30"

From the Odes of Solomon was first performed in concert by the Ars Brunensis Chorus on June 2, 2002, at the Husov Sbor, Brno. Recorded on June 1, 2002, at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, Brno - Husovice, Czech Republic. Roman Valek conducted the Ars Brunensis Chorus, Dan Kalousek choirmaster, Frantisek Poul recording engineer, and Annegret Lange producer. Released on CD by Capstone Records.

For information about the composer, visit: www.gregbartholomew.com or send email to info@gregbartholomew.com.

ARS NOVA MUSIC

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From the

Odes of Solomon

The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scholars have debated whether the Odes should be considered Jewish, Christian or Gnostic, and whether they were first written in Greek, Hebrew or Syriac. Early Christian writings refer to and quote from them. An old Syriac manuscript containing the text of most of the Odes was discovered in 1909 by the English scholar J. Rendel Harris, and other partial texts in various languages have also been found. There are 42 Odes. Some fragments are still missing from Odes I and III, and no part of Ode II has yet been found.

I have selected text from four of the Odes of Solomon which I found particularly compelling. The anonymous translation I have used comes from The Gnostic Society Library.

Greg Bartholomew
October 7, 2000
Seattle

From Ode I

The Lord is on my head like a crown
And I shall not be without him.

From Ode III

I clothe his limbs, his own limbs,
and hang from them. He loves me.

How would I know how to love the Lord
if he did not love me?
And who can tell us about love?
Only one who is loved.

I love the beloved, and my soul loves him.
I am where he reposes,
and I will be no stranger to him,
because he is not petty, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join him
for the lover has found his beloved.

From Ode XIV

As the eyes of a son to his father,
so my eyes turn to you, O Lord, at all times,
for with you are my consolation and joy.

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,
nor your kindness,
but stretch out your right hand,
and be my guide to the end.

Care for me, save me from evil,
and let your gentleness and love be with me.
Teach me to sing of truth,
that I may engender fruit in you.

Open the harp of your holy spirit
so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

From your sea of mercy, help me,
help me in my hour of need.

From Ode XVII

I was crowned by God, by a crown alive.
And my Lord justified me.

I was freed from myself and uncondemned.
The chains fell from my wrists.

The thought of truth drove me.
I walked to it and did not wander off.

He glorified me by kindness
and lifted my thought to truth.
I opened closed doors, shattered bars of iron.
My own shackles melted.

Nothing appeared closed
because I was the door to everything.

I freed slaves,
left no man in bonds.

I spread my knowledge and love,
and sowed my fruits in hearts
and transformed them.

I blessed them. They lived.
I gathered them and saved them.

They became the limbs of my body
and I was their head.

--anonymous translation excerpted from the
Gnostic Society Library
(www.webcom.com/~gnosis/library/odes.htm)

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my first music teacher, Mary Christine Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

♩ = 96

Descant

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano for rehearsal only

mp

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

mp

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

mp

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

mp

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

mp

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

♩ = 96

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8

D

S

A

T

B

Pno

And I shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

I shall not, shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

15 **A**

S *p* I, I clothe His limbs,

A *p* I, I clothe His limbs, *mp* his own,

T *p* I, I clothe His limbs, *mp* His own,

B *p* I, I clothe His limbs, *mp* His own, *mp* His

Pno **A**

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22 *mp* *p* *p*

S His own limbs, I clothe His

A *mp* *p* *mp* I clothe His limbs, *p* I clothe His

T *mp* *p* *p* His own limbs, I clothe His

B own, His own limbs, I clothe His

Pno

30

S
limbs, I hang from

A
limbs, and hang, I hang from

T
limbs, and hang, I hang from

B
limbs, and hang, I hang, and hang from

Pno

Perusal Copy

36

S
them. He loves me.

A
them. He loves me.

T
them. He loves me.

B
them. He loves me.

Pno

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

B ♩ = 120

S *mp*
How would I know how to love the Lord

A *mp*
How would I know how to love the Lord

T *mf*
How would I know how to love the Lord if

B *mf*
How would I know?

Pno

B ♩ = 120

S *mp*
if He did not love me?

A *mp* *mf*
if He did not love me? And who?

T *mf*
He did not love me?

B *mp* *mf*
How would I know how to love the Lord? And

Pno

56

S *mp* How would I know how to

A *mf* And who can tell us a - bout love? If

T *mp* How would I know how to

B who can tell us a - bout love? If He

Pno

Perusal Copy

62

S *mf* love the Lord? And who can tell us a - bout love?

A *mf* He did not love me? And who can tell us a - bout love?

T *mf* love the Lord? And who can tell us a - bout love?

B *mf* did not love me? A - bout love?

Pno

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

68 $\text{♩} = 96$ *mp* D $\text{♩} = 120$

S
On - ly one who is loved.

A
On - ly one who is loved. I love the be - lov - ed and my soul_ loves

T
On - ly one who is loved.

B
On - ly one who is loved.

Pno $\text{♩} = 96$ D $\text{♩} = 120$

Perusal Copy

74

S
I _____ am where_____

A
Him. I am where_____ He re - pos - es.

T
I love the be - lov - ed and my soul_ loves Him.

B
I love the be - lov - ed and my soul_ loves Him.

Pno

E

79 *mf*

S he re - pos - es.

A *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I will be no__

T *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I will be no__

B *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I__

Pno **E**

Perusal Copy

85 *mf*

S And I will be no stran - ger__ to Him__

A __ strang - er__ to Him,__ no__ stran - ger__ to Him__

T __ strang - er__ to Him,__ no stran - ger__ to Him__

B __ will__ be__ no__ stran - ger__ to Him__

Pno

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

91 **F** *mp* He _____

S be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

A be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

T be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

B be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

Pno

Perusal Copy

99 **G** *mf* $\text{♩} = 96$ I have gone. _____ *mp* I've found

S _____

A *p* _____ *mp* Love has found

T *p* _____ *mp* For the lov - er has found his be-

B *p* _____ *mf* I have gone to join Him, for the lov - er has found his be-

Pno

105

S *mf* love... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

A *mp* love... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

T *mp* lov - ed... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

B *mp* lov - ed... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

Pno

Perusal Copy

112

H *mp* The Lord is on my head like a crown.

A *mp* The Lord is on my head like a crown.

T *mp* The Lord is on my head like a crown.

B *mp* The Lord is on my head like a crown.

Pno

H *mp* The Lord is on my head like a crown.

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

120

S
And I shall not be with - out

A
And I shall not be with - out

T
I shall not, shall not be with - out

B
And I shall not be, I shall not be with - out

Pno

Perusal Copy

126

S
Him. He loves me. *mf* *f*

A
Him. He loves me. *mf* *f*

T
Him. He loves me. *mf* *f*

B
Him. He loves me. *mf* *f*

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my father, Fletcher Lavallee Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

$\text{♩} = 54$ Gently

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mp

As the eyes of a son to his fa - ther, so my eyes turn to you, O

Piano for rehearsal only

$\text{♩} = 54$ Gently

4

S

A

T

B

Pno

Lord, at all times, for with you are my con - so - la - tion and joy.

Do not turn...

mp

A

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

7

S *mp*
Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O Lord,

A *mp* 3
Do not turn your mer - cy, Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O Lord,

T *mp*
O Lord, O Lord,

B *mp*
O Lord, O Lord, O

Pno

Perusal Copy

11

S *mp*
nor your kind - ness

A *mp* 3
Do not turn your mer - cy from me,

T *mp* 3
Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O

B
Lord, from me, O

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

14

S Do not turn your mer - cy from me, But stretch out your right hand, and

A *mp* nor your kind - ness, *mp* But stretch out your right hand, and

T Lord, Lord. But stretch out your right hand and

B Lord, Lord. But stretch out your right hand and

Pno

B

Perusal Copy

18

S be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from e - vil. Care for

A be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from e - vil. Care for

T be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save_ me from e - vil.

B be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save_ me from e - vil.

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

24

S
me. Save me Save me from e-vil, and let your gen-tle-ness and love be—

A
me. Save me Save me from e-vil, and let your gen-tle-ness and love be

T
Care for me. Care for me.

B
Care for me. Care for me.

Pno

29

S
with me.

A
with me.

T
And let your gen-tle-ness and love be— with me.

B
And let your gen-tle-ness and love be with me.

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

C Più allegro (♩ = 72)

33

S Teach me to sing.

A Teach me, _____ Teach me to sing.

T Teach me _____ Teach me _____ to sing.

B Teach me _____ Teach me _____ to sing.

Pno **C** Più allegro (♩ = 72)

37 **Con moto** (♩ = 54)

S Teach me to sing of truth,

A Teach me to sing of truth,

T Teach me to sing of truth that I

B Teach me to sing of truth. Teach me to sing of truth that I

Pno **Con moto** (♩ = 54)

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

47

S
Teach me _____ to sing _____

A
Teach me, _____ to sing.

T
8 may en - gen - der fruit in you. _____ Teach me to sing _____

B
may en - gen - der fruit in you. _____ Teach me _____ to sing _____

Pno

55

rit.

D Tempo I (♩ = 54)

S
_____ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

A
Teach me to sing of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

T
8 _____ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

B
_____ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

rit.

D Tempo I (♩ = 54)

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

61 $\text{♩} = 54$

S
o - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit.

A
o - - - pen, so I may praise

T
o - - - pen. so I may

B
o - - - pen, so I may praise you,

Pno

67 *mp*

S
so I may praise you, praise you, Lord

A
you, so I may praise you, praise you, Lord,

T
praise you, so I may praise, praise you, Lord,

B
so I may praise, so I may praise you, Lord,

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

76 **E** ♩ = 54 *mf*

S O — pen, o — pen, o - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit

A *mf* O - pen, o — pen, o - - - pen, o - pen so I may praise you,

T *mf* O - pen, o - pen, o - - - pen, o - pen so I may praise you,

B *mf* O - pen, o - pen, o - - - pen, o - pen

Pno **E** ♩ = 54

80 *mf*

S so I may praise you, Lord, so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

A so I may praise you, Lord, So I may praise you,

T so I may praise you, Lord So I may praise you, Lord, with all its

B *mf* so I may praise you, Lord So I may praise you,

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

F

83

S So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of

A Lord. O - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit. From your sea of

T notes. So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of

B Lord. O - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit. From your sea of

Pno

F

87

S mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me,

A mer - cy, help me. help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

T mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

B mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

93

S *mp* Help me in my hour of need. *mf* Help me in my hour of

A *mp* Help me. *mf* Help me in my hour of

T *mp* Help me in my hour of need. *mf* Help me in my hour of

B *mp* Help me. *mf* Help me in my hour of

Pno

96

S *ppp* need.

A *ppp* need.

T *ppp* need. *p* *Relaxed, as a memory* As the eyes of a son to his fa - ther.

B *p* need. *ppp*

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my sister, Annie Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

♩ = 60

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mp*

Bass *mp*

Piano

♩ = 60

I was crowned by God, I was crowned by God,

I was crowned by God,

S *mp*

A *mp*

T

B

Pno

4

I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

7

S
and my Lord just - i - fied me.

A
and my Lord just - i - fied me.

T
and my Lord just - i - fied me.

B
and my Lord just - i - fied me.

Pno

12

A mf $\text{♩} = 72$

S
I was freed from my - self,

A
mf
and un - con - demned.

T
mf
I was freed from my - self,

B
and un - con - demned. I was freed.

A $\text{♩} = 72$

Pno

16

S I was freed from my - self, The chains fell from my

A and un - con - demned.

T I was freed from my self. The chains fell from my

B and un - con - demned.

Pno

B

19

S wrists.

A The chains fell from my wrists. *mp* The thought of truth drove me. The

T wrists.

B The chains fell from my wrists. *mp* The thought of truth drove me.

Pno

B

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

23

rallentando *mf* *poco accel.*

S
The thought of truth—

poco accel. *mf*

A
thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth

mf

T
The thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth. The

mf

B
The thought of truth drove me. The

poco accel. *rallentando* *poco accel.*

Pno

27

poco rall. **C** *a tempo*

S
drove me...

poco rall.

A
drove me...

poco rall.

T
thought of truth.

mf

B
thought of truth. The thought of truth drove me. I

C *a tempo*

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

30 *poco accel.* *mf* *poco rall.* *a tempo*

S I walked to it and did not wan-der off.

A I walked to it. and did not wan-der off.

T I walked to it. And did not wan-der off.

B walked to it, and did not wan-der off.

Pno *poco accel.* *poco rall.* *a tempo*

34 **D**

S I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness and

A I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

T I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

B I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

Pno **D**

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

39

S lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

A lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

T lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

B lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

Pno

43

S i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

A i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

T i - ron. The thought of truth. My own shack - les melt - ed.

B i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

48 **E**

Soprano: - - - - -

Alto: - - - - - No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause

Tenor: No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause I was the door to ev - 'ry - thing.____

Bass: - - - - -

Piano: - - - - -

51 **F**

Soprano: - - - - - I freed

Alto: I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

Tenor: No - thingap - pearedclosed be - cause I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

Bass: No - thingap - pearedclosed be - cause I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

Piano: - - - - -

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

55

S
slaves, left no man in bonds.

A
I freed slaves, left no man in

T

B

Pno

58

S
My own shack-les melt-ed...

A
bonds. My own shack-les melt-ed...

T
I freed slaves, left no man in bonds.

B
I freed slaves, left no man in bonds. I

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

G

62

S My own shack-les melt-ed... I spread my know- ledge

A

T My own shack-les melt ed... I spread my know - ledge

B freed slaves, left noman in bonds. I spread my know - ledge

Pno

G

67

S I spread my know ledge and love, know ledge and love,

A I spread my know ledge and love, know ledge and love,

T and love. I spread my know ledge and love,

B and love. I spread my know ledge and love,

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

72

S and sowed my fruit in hearts and trans - formed them.

A and trans - formed them.

T and sowed my fruit in hearts and trans - formed them.

B I sowed my fruit in hearts, and trans - formed them.

Pno

77

S I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and saved them. **H**

A I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and *mp*

T I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and *mp*

B I blessed them. They lived. **H**

Pno

82

S

A
saved_ them.

T
saved_ them. They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy_

B
They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy_

Pno

87

S
They be - came the limbs of my

A
They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy. They be - came the limbs of my

T
They be - came limbs of my

B
They be - came limbs of my

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

91

subito p *cresc.* *f.*

S bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

A bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

T bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

B bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

Pno

96 **I** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 48

S I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

A I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

T I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

B I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

Pno **I** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 48

CHORAL WORKS OF GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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Leo, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2002 (Duration: 5:45)

A setting of excerpts from *Astronomica*, a 1st Century B.C. Latin text by Marcus Manilius.
Finalist in the 2007 Cincinnati Camerata Choral Composition Competition.

From the Odes of Solomon *Available on CD from Capstone Records*

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)

From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)

From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:30)

For unaccompanied SATB choir. The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan), for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2002 (Dur.: 6:40)

A setting of excerpts from United Nations Sec.-Gen. Kofi Annan's Nobel Peace Prize Lecture.
Available on CD released by Connecticut Choral Artists (Concora): *Songs & Stories of Liberation* (2007).
Finalist in the 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition.

Beati Quorum Via, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 2:30)

A new setting of the traditional Latin text.

The Fervid Hokey Poke, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2010 (Duration: 2:45)

A setting of the hilarious prize-winning poem by Jeff Brechlin.

Song of the Mountains, for mixed SSAATB choir with piano accompaniment, 2004 (Duration: 6 min.)

A setting of text adapted from prose by American naturalist John Muir (1838 - 1914).

Stoke Fleming, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2000 (Duration 3:30)

A meditation on rocks and waves written at a small hamlet on the English Channel.

The Tree, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 3 min.)

A setting of the poem by American transcendental poet Jones Very (1813 - 1880).

The Promise of Liberty, or unison or 2-part chorus and piano, 2009 (Duration: 3 min.)

Adapted from the poem, *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus ("Give me your tired, your poor...").

Three American Winter Settings

A Country Boy in Winter, for unaccompanied TTBB men's chorus, 2001 (Duration: 3:20)

A setting of the poem by American poet Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 - 1909).

A Rainy Day, for unaccompanied SSAA women's chorus, 2001 (Duration: 4:15)

A setting of the poem by American poet John Brainard (1796 - 1828).

To a Locomotive in Winter, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2001 (Duration: 6 min.)

A setting of the poem by Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892).

Three Gnostic Poems

An Open World, 2007 (Duration: 3 min.)

When I Land, 2007 (Duration: 4 min.)

And the Wind, 2007 (Duration: 5 min.)

For unaccompanied SATB choir. Three settings of poems by Fletcher LaVallee Bartholomew, meditations on the ineffable.