

# Be Thou a Smooth Way

RALPH M. JOHNSON

SATB and piano



ST. OLAF  
CHORAL  
SERIES

EDITED BY ANTON ARMSTRONG  
AND JOHN FERGUSON

to the Senior Choir of  
White Bear Lake United Methodist Church  
Elaine Hill, Director of Music  
(Underwritten by the American Composers Forum  
with funds provided by the Otto Bremer Foundation)

# Be Thou a Smooth Way

for SATB with piano

Carmina Gaedelica I, 171, abridged  
tr. Alexander Carmichael

Incorporating the hymntune ST. COLUMBA  
Traditional Irish  
Ralph M. Johnson

With longing ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$ )

Piano

*mp*

*p.*

*Pedal freely throughout*

8

Soprano *mp*

Be thou a smooth way be -

11

fore me, be thou a

14

guid-ing star a - bove me,

17

Soprano and Alto

be thou a keen eye be - hind me, this

20

day, this night, for ev - er.

24 Tenor and Bass

*mp*

be thou a smooth way be - fore me,

28

be thou a guid-ing star a - bove me,

32

Soprano *mf* *mp*

be thou a keen eye be - hind me, this

Alto *mf* *mp*

be thou a keen eye be - hind me, be thou be - hind me this

Tenor *mf* *mp*

be thou a keen eye be - hind me, be thou be - hind me this

Bass *mf* *mp*

be thou a keen eye be - hind me, this

36

day, this night, for ev - er.

day, this night, this night, for ev

day, this night, this night, for ev

day, this night, this night, for ev

*poco rall.*

*poco rall.*

*poco rall.*

*poco rall.*

*poco rall.*

40 *mp a tempo*

*mp a tempo*

*mp a tempo*

er. *p* I am wea - ry, and

*mp a tempo*

er. *p* I am wea - ry, and

er. I am wea - ry, and

*mp a tempo*

*p*

44

I \_\_\_\_\_ for - lorn \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ for - lorn \_\_\_\_\_

47

*mf* Lead thou me to the land of the an - gels; *ten.*

*mf* Lead thou me to the land of the an - gels, the an - gels; *ten.*

*mf* Lead thou me to the land of the an - gels, the an - gels; *ten.*

51

*mp*  
*a tempo*

55

*mp*

59

*p*

If on - ly thou, — O God

*mp*

If — on - ly thou, O God of

*p*

If on - ly thou, — O God of

*p p*

If on - ly thou, O God of

*p*

*p*

63

be at peace with me, my sup - port,  
 life, be at peace with me, be my sup - port,  
 life, be at peace with me, be my sup -  
 life, be at peace with me, my sup - port, sup -

67

be to me as a star, to me as a  
 be to me as a star, be to me as a  
 port, be to me as a star, to me as a  
 port, be to me as a star, be to me as a

71

helm, in peace to my

helm, in peace to my

helm, in peace to my

helm, from my ly - ing down in peace to my

helm, from my ly - ing down in peace to my

*mp* *cresc.*

74

ris - ing a - new, a -

ris - ing a - new, a -

ris - ing a - new, a -

ris - ing a - new, a -

*mf* *f*

77

new.

new.

new.

new.

*f*

*ff*

80

*mp*

Be thou a smooth way be -

*mp*

Be thou a smooth way be -

*f*

*mf*

*mp*

84

fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* be thou a guid-ing star a -

*mp* be thou a guid-ing star a -

3

88

be thou a keen eye be -

be thou a keen eye be -

bove me, \_\_\_\_\_ be thou a keen eye be -

bove me, \_\_\_\_\_ be thou a keen eye be -

3

92 *mf* hind me, *mp* this day, this night, for  
*mf* hind me, be thou be - hind me this day, this night, this  
*mf* hind me, be thou be - hind me this day, this night, this  
*mf* hind me, be thou be - hind me this day, this night, this

96 *p* ev - er. This day, this night, for ev - *rit.*  
*p* night, for ev - er. This day, this night, for ev - *rit.*  
*p* night, for ev - er. This day, this night, for ev - *rit.*  
*p* night, for ev - er. This day, this night, for ev - *rit.*

101

*a tempo*

er.  
*a tempo*  
er.  
*a tempo*  
er.  
*a tempo*

Four vocal staves in 4/4 time, each starting with a whole rest. The key signature has two flats. The first staff is marked *a tempo*. The second and fourth staves are marked *a tempo*. The word "er." is written below the first, third, and fifth staves.

er.

*mp*  
*a tempo*

Piano accompaniment for measures 101-104. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has two flats and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *mp* and *a tempo*.

105

*poco rall.*  
*decresc.*  
*pp*

Piano accompaniment for measures 105-108. The right hand has a melodic line with a long note in the final measure. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has two flats and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *poco rall.*, *decresc.*, and *pp*.