

# The Canticle of Hannah

SATB chorus and piano

I: My Loving Friends (5 min)

II: A Virtuous Woman (4.5 min)

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Texts adapted from letters by Hannah Callowhill Penn  
and Proverbs 31

2022



*Commissioned by Singing City Choir of Philadelphia  
with the generous support of  
Jeffrey Brillhart & Joacy Mendonca  
Mark & Peggy Curchack*

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### I: My Loving Friends

My loving Friends  
My marriage is the greatest comfort in this world  
so is it mixt with great exercises:  
a wilderness of thorns,  
and the extreme trouble of the sea.  
But I have strength of mind  
and the strength of God  
which are greater than the strength of the discords.  
I hitherto go on with comfort and hope  
for the people are safe  
and their comfort is so near interwoven with mine  
and my children's whole fortune, my husband's reputation,  
my own satisfaction and their happiness  
hang all in a thread together  
and shall be carefully preserved by me, if not broken by them.  
I recommend to thy utmost care  
to promote virtue, sobriety, peace and love;  
to reconcile all animosities for thine own honor,  
and the reputation of the country.  
Oh may it be so, saith my soul.  
And in this I earnestly desire the Lord may bless thy endeavors,  
from whence the most solid comfort will arise to thy self,  
And a very great one to  
Thy loving Friend.

— *adapted from letters by Hannah Callowhill Penn  
written 1701-1726*

### II: A Virtuous Woman

Who can find a virtuous woman?  
for her price is far above rubies.  
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,  
so that he shall have no need of spoil.  
She is like the merchants' ships;  
she bringeth her food from afar.  
She considereth a field, and buyeth it:  
with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.  
She girdeth her loins with strength,  
and strengtheneth her arms.  
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;  
yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.  
She seeketh wool and flax,  
and worketh willingly with her hands.  
Her husband is known in the gates,  
when he sitteth among the elders of the land.  
Strength and honour are her clothing;  
and she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;  
and in her tongue is the law of kindness.  
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:  
but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be  
praised.  
Give her of the fruit of her hands;  
and let her own works praise her in the gates.

— *Adapted from Proverbs 31:10-31  
King James Version*



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# The Canticle of Hannah

## I: My Loving Friends

Moderato ♩=c.66

Melissa Dunphy

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano, measures 1-6. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is Moderato, approximately 66 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *p warmly* for the vocal parts and *p* for the piano. The lyrics are: "My lov-ing Friends, my lov-ing Friends, my lov-ing".

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano, measures 7-12. The score continues from the previous page. The dynamics are marked *mp* for the vocal parts and *mp* for the piano. The lyrics are: "Friends, my lov-ing Friends, my mar-riage is the great-est com-fort in the".

13

S. *mp* world, so is it mixt with great ex-er-cis-es: *mf* a wild-er-ness of thorns, and the ex-

A. *mp* world, so is it mixt with great ex-er-cis-es: *mf* a wild-er-ness of thorns, and the ex-

T. *mp* com-fort in the world, so is it mixt with a wild - er-ness of thorns, *mf*

B. *mp* com-fort in the world, so is it mixt with a wild - er-ness of thorns, *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

19

S. *mp* treme trou - ble of the sea. But I have strength of

A. *mp* treme trou - ble of the sea. But I have strength of

T. *mp* and the ex-treme trou - ble of the sea. I have strength of

B. *mp* and the ex-treme trou - ble of the sea. But I have strength of

Pno. *mp*

24

S. *f*  
 mind, and the strength of God, which are great - er than the strength of the dis cords.

A. *f* *mf*  
 mind, and the strength of God, which are great - er than the strength. I

T. *f*  
 mind, and the strength of God, which are great - er than the strength of the dis cords.

B. *f*  
 mind, and the strength of God, which are great - er than the strength of the dis cords.

Pno. *f*

30

S. *mf* *f*  
 — I hith-er-to go on with com-fort and with hope for the peo-ple are safe, —

A. *f*  
 hith-er-to go on, go on with com - fort and hope for the peo-ple, the peo-ple are

T. *mf* *f*  
 — I hith-er-to go on com-fort and with for the peo-ple are safe, the

B. *mf* *f*  
 — I go on with com - fort and hope, the

Pno. *mf* *f*

37 *mf*

S. and their com-fort is so near in-ter- wov-en with mine, and my

A. safe, are safe, and their com-fort is so near in-ter- wov-en with mine, and my

T. peo-ple are safe, and their com-fort is so near in-ter-wov - en with mine, and my

B. peo-ple are safe, and their com-fort is so near in-ter-wov - en with mine, and my

Pno. *mf*

44

S. child-ren's whole for-tune, my hus-band's rep - u - ta-tion, my own sat-is - fac - tion, and their

A. child-ren's whole for-tune, my hus - band's rep - u - ta - tion, my sat-is-fac-tion, and their

T. child-ren's whole for-tune, my hus - band's rep - u - ta - tion, my sat-is-fac-tion, and their

B. child-ren's whole for-tune, my hus-band's rep - u - ta-tion, my own sat-is - fac - tion, and their

Pno.

50

S. *f* *mp* *p*  
 hap-pi-ness hang all in a thread to - geth - er, to - geth - er, and shall be

A. *f* *p*  
 hap-pi-ness hang all in a thread to - geth - er, to - geth - er, to - geth - er, and

T. *f* *mp* *p*  
 hap-pi-ness hang all in a thread to - geth - er, to - geth - er, to - geth - er, and

B. *f* *p*  
 hap-pi-ness hang all in a thread to - geth - er, to - geth - er, and shall be

Pno. *f* *p*

56

S. *f* *p*  
 care - ful-ly pre - ser - ved by me.

A. *f* *p*  
 shall be care - ful-ly pre - ser - ved, if not brok - en by them.

T. *f* *p*  
 shall be care - ful-ly pre - ser - ved, if not brok - en by them.

B. *f* *p*  
 care - ful-ly pre - ser - ved by me.

Pno. *f* *p*

62

S. *p* I re-com mend to thy

A. *p* I re-com mend to thy

T. *mf* I re-com-mend to thy ut - most care to pro - mote

B. *mf* I re-com-mend to thy ut - most care to pro - mote

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

67

S. *mf* care to pro - mote vir-tue and so - bri-et - y, peace and love: *p* to re-con-cile an - i -

A. *mf* care to pro - mote vir-tue and so - bri-et - y, peace and love: *p* to re-con-

T. *mf* vir - tue, so - bri-et - y, peace and love: *p* to re-con-cile an - i -

B. *mf* vir - tue, so - bri-et - y, peace and love: *p* to re-con-

Pno. *mf* *p*



72 *f*

S. mos-i - ty for thine own hon - or, and the rep - u - ta - tion of the

A. cile an - i - mos-i - ty for thy hon - or, and the rep - u - ta - tion of the

T. mos-i - ty for thine own hon - or, for thy hon - or, and the rep - u - ta - tion of the

B. cile for thine own hon - or and the rep - u - ta - tion of the

Pno. *f*

77 *poco rit.* . . . *p* . . . *a tempo*

S. coun - try. Oh may it be so, sa-ith my soul, may it be

A. coun - try. Oh may it be so, sa-ith my soul, may it be

T. coun - try. Oh may it be so, sa-ith my soul, -

B. coun - try. Oh may it be so, sa - ith my

Pno. *poco rit.* . . . *p* . . . *a tempo*

83

*ff* *rit.*

S. so, sa-ith my soul, may it be so, sa-ith my soul, my soul.

A. so, sa-ith my soul, may it be so, sa-ith my soul, so sa-ith my soul.

T. may it be so, sa-ith my soul, sa-ith my soul, my soul.

B. soul, may it be so, sa-ith my soul, sa-ith my soul.

Pno. *ff* *rit.*

90 **Poco meno mosso** ♩=c. 63

*p* *mf*

S. In this I ear - nest-ly de - sire the Lord may bless thy en - deav - ors,

A. In this I ear - nest-ly de - sire the Lord may bless thy en - deav - ors,

T. In this I ear - nest-ly de - sire the Lord may bless thy en - deav - ors,

B. In this I ear - nest-ly de - sire the Lord may bless thy en - deav - ors,

**Poco meno mosso** ♩=c. 63

Pno. *p* *mf*

95

S. *mp* from whence the most sol-id com-fort will a - rise to thy self, *f* and a *pp*

A. *mp* from whence the most sol-id com-fort will a - rise to thy self, *f* and a *pp*

T. *mp* from whence the most sol - id com-fort will a - rise to thy self, *f* and a *pp*

B. *mp* from whence the most sol - id com-fort will a - rise to thy self, *f* and a *pp*

Pno. *mp* *f* *pp*

101

S. *rit.* ver-y great one to thy lov-ing Friend. *pp*

A. ver-y great com - fort to thy lov-ing Friend. *pp*

T. ver-y great one to, a great com - fort to thy lov-ing Friend. *pp*

B. ver-y great one to, a great com-fort to thy lov-ing Friend. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

# The Canticle of Hannah

## II: A Virtuous Woman

Allegretto ♩=c.48

Melissa Dunphy

1

S. *p dolce*  
Who can find a

A. *p dolce*  
Who can find a

T.

B.

Pno. *mf* *p*

6

S. vir - tu - ous wo - man? for her price is far a - bove ru - bies. The heart of her hus - band doth

A. vir - tu - ous wo - man? for her price is far a - bove ru - bies. The heart of her hus - band doth

T.

B.

Pno.

10

S. *mp*  
safe - ly trust her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Give her of the fruit of her

A. *mp*  
safe - ly trust her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Give her of the

T.

B.

Pno. *mp*

14

S. *mp*  
hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. Give her of the fruit of her

A. *mp*  
fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates. Give her of the

T. *mp*  
Give her of the fruit of her

B.

Pno. *mp*

18

S. hands; \_\_\_\_\_ and let her own works praise her in the gates.

A. fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

T. hands; \_\_\_\_\_ and let her own works praise her in the gates. *p dolce* She is like the mer-chants' ships; she

B. *p dolce* She is like the mer-chants' ships; she

Pno. *p*

23

S. *p* With the fruit of her hand, she

A. *p* With the fruit, the fruit of her

T. bring-eth her food from a - far. She con - si - der - eth a field, and buy - eth it: with the fruit of her hand, she

B. bring-eth her food from a - far. She con - si - der - eth a field, and buy - eth it: with the fruit, the fruit of her

Pno.

28 *f*

S. plant-eth a vine-yard. She gird-eth her loins with strength, and strength - en-eth her

A. hand, she plant-eth a vine - yard. She gird-eth her loins with strength, and

T. plant-eth a vine-yard. She gird-eth her loins with strength, and strength - en-eth her

B. hand, she plant-eth a vine - yard. She gird-eth her loins with strength, and

Pno. *f*

32 *mf*

S. arms. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works

A. strength-ens her arms. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works

T. arms. Give her of the fruit of her fruit of her hands, and let her own works

B. strength-ens her arms. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and

Pno. *mf*

36

S. praise her in the gates. She *p*<

A. praise her in the gates. She *p*<

T. praise her in the gates. She *p*<

B. praise her in the gates. She *p*<

Pno. *mf* *p*

41

S. stretch - eth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reach - eth forth her hands to the need-y. She

A. stretch - eth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reach-eth her hands to the need-y. She

T. stretch - eth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reach-eth her hands. She

B. stretch - eth out her hand; yea, she reach - eth forth her hands. She

Pno.



45 *f* *mf*

S. seek - eth wool and flax, and work - eth will-ing-ly with her hands. Her

A. seek - eth wool and flax, and work - eth will-ing-ly with her hands. Her

T. seek - eth wool and flax, Her

B. seek - eth wool and flax, Her

Pno. *f* *mf*

49

S. hus-band is known in the gates, when he sit-teth a mong the eld-ers of the land, but

A. hus-band is known, known in the gates, when he sit-teth a mong the eld-ers of the land, but

T. hus-band is known, known in the gates, when he sit-teth a mong the eld-ers of the land, but

B. hus-band is known in the gates, when he sit-teth a mong the eld - ers, but

Pno.

53 *f*

S. give her of the fruit of her hands; \_\_\_\_\_ and let her own works praise her in the

A. give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the

T. give her of the fruit of her hands. \_\_\_\_\_ and let, let her works praise her in the

B. give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit \_\_\_\_\_ of her hands, \_\_\_\_\_ and praise her in the

Pno. *f*

57 *mp*

S. gates. Strength and hon-or are her

A. gates. Strength and hon-or are her

T. gates. Strength and hon-or are her

B. gates. Strength and

Pno. *f* *mp*

62 *mf*

S. cloth - ing; and she shall re-joyce in\_ time to come. She op - en-eth her mouth with

A. cloth - ing; and she shall re-joyce in\_ time to come. She op - en-eth her mouth with

T. cloth - ing; and she, she shall re - joyce. She op - en-eth her mouth with

B. hon - or are her cloth - ing, re - joyce. She op - en-eth her mouth with

Pno. *mf*

66 *f*

S. wis - dom; and in her\_ tongue is the law\_ of kind - law - -

A. wis - dom; and in her tongue is the law\_ of kind - law - -

T. wis - dom; and in her tongue is the law\_ of kind - law - -

B. wis - dom; and in her tongue is the law\_ of kind - law - -

Pno. *f*

70

S. *mp*  
 ness. Fav - our is de - ceit - ful, and beau - ty is vain: but a

A. *mp*  
 ness. Fav - our is de - ceit - ful, and beau - ty, beau-ty is vain: but a

T. *mp*  
 ness. Fav - our is de - ceit - ful, and beau - ty is vain: but a

B. *mp*  
 ness. Fav - our is de - ceit - ful, and beau - ty is vain: but a

Pno. *mp*

75

S.  
 wo-man that fear-eth the Lord; she shall be praised.

A.  
 wo-man that fear-eth the Lord; she shall be praised.

T.  
 wo-man that fear-eth the Lord; she shall be praised.

B.  
 wo-man that fear-eth the Lord; she shall be praised.

Pno.

79

S. *f* Give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit, the fruit of her hands; let her own works praise her in the

A. *f* Give her of the fruit of her hands; \_\_\_\_\_ and let her own works praise her in the gates.

T. *f* Give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

B. *f* Give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit \_\_\_\_\_ of her hands; let her own works praise her in the

Pno. *f*

83

S. gates. Give her the fruit, \_\_\_\_\_ of her hands; and let her works praise her.

A. give her of the fruit of her hands; \_\_\_\_\_ and let her own works praise her in the gates.

T. *f* Give her \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

B. gates. Give her the fruit, \_\_\_\_\_ of her hands; and let her works praise her.

Pno.

87 *piu f*

S. Give her of the fruit, the fruit of her hands; for her price is far a-bove

A. Give her of the fruit of her hands; for her

T. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works

B. Give her of the fruit, the fruit of her hands; for her price is far a-bove

Pno. *piu f*

90

S. ru - bies. Give her of the fruit of her

A. price is far a-bove ru - bies. Give her of the fruit of her

T. praise her in the gates. give her of the fruit of her hands; and

B. ru - bies. give her of the fruit of her hands; and

Pno.

93

S. hands; let her works praise her in the gates, praise her in the

A. hands; let her works praise her in the gates, praise her in the

T. let her own works praise her in the gates, praise her in the

B. let her own works praise her, praise her in the gates, praise her in the

Pno.

98

S. gates, praise her in the gates. *rit.*

A. gates, praise her in the gates.

T. gates, praise her in the gates.

B. gates, praise her in the gates.

Pno. *f*