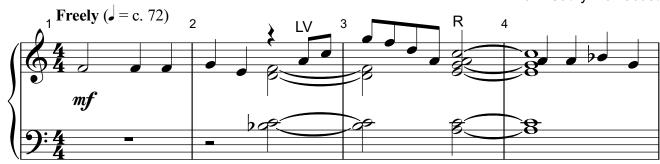
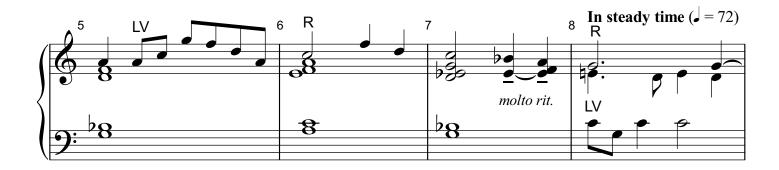
Meditation on Beautiful Savior



SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU Silesian folk tune arr. Cathy Moklebust





An edition for 3, 4 or 5 octaves is available, code CGB175. The two editions are compatible for massed ringing.

Notes from the Composer...

In 1995, the First Congregational Church of Elyria, Ohio, lost one of its handbell choir members, Jane Kingman, to cancer. The choir, together with the Kingman family, wanted to pay tribute to Jane's love for God and music through the commissioning of a special arrangement of "Beautiful Savior," one of her favorite hymns. What transpired with this arrangement is not only a fitting tribute to Jane, but a musical description of the emotions felt after the loss of a loved one.

The introduction begins by focusing on the F/G5 ringer, the position played by Jane Kingman. Stanza one is meditative and restful. The second stanza is written in the relative minor key, implying pain, sadness, and grief. After struggling with feelings of frustration and even anger toward a God who allows us to suffer devastating illness and pain, a transition takes place in the form of large, forward-moving chords (mm. 56-61), which leads us through our anguish to the realization that death is not victorious. Stanza three shines bright with the promise of eternal life, free from all earthly pain and daily struggle. The conclusion begins by returning the focus to the F5 and G5 bells, and continues on with material used in the introduction. At measure 83, slowly ascending notes remind us of the ultimate peace that awaits us in Heaven.

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