

O God, Be the Music

Dan Schutte

INTRO/INTERLUDE *With majesty* (♩ = ca. 120)

Keyboard

Fsus4 F F/A B♭ Csus4 C

Am Dm Gm F/A B♭ Csus4 C

rit.

VERSES

Descant *a tempo*

4. O God, be mu - sic, cap - ture my heart;
 5. O God, be mu - sic, hal - low my years;
 6. O God, be mu - sic, car - ry me home;

Soprano *a tempo*

Alto

1. O God, be the mu - sic that wak - ens my day; your
 2. O God, be the mu - sic that qui - ets my night; your
 3. O God, be the mu - sic that quick - ens my feet; your
 4. O God, be the mu - sic that cap - tures my heart, my
 5. O God, be the mu - sic that hal - lows my years; a
 6. O God, be the mu - sic that car - ries me home to

Baritone *a tempo*

F B♭maj7 B♭/C F C/E

a tempo

4. make my life your work of art.
 5. be a friend in joys and tears.
 6. let me sit be - fore your throne.

1. song be a light on my way, (on my way.)
 2. voice be my joy and de - light, (and de - light.)
 3. path be the place where we meet, (where we meet.)
 4. life be your great work of art, (work of art.)
 5. friend in my joys and my tears, (and my tears.)
 6. sit at the foot of your throne, (of your throne.)

And in

4-6. And in all let mu - sic car - ry me as you
 1-6. all that will be, may your mu - sic car - ry me as you sing heav - en's

Dm Dm/C Bbmaj7 Gm Csus4 C C/Bb

Am Eb6 Bb A Dm Dm/C Bbmaj7 Gm

1, 3, 5
4-6. sing in my soul.

1, 3, 5
1-6. song in my soul.

soul, in my soul.

C7sus4 Bb/C F Fsus4 F Bb F/A

1, 3, 5

rit. *D.S.* 2, 4 *D.C.* Final
2, 4. soul. 6. soul.

rit. *D.S.* 2, 4 *D.C.* Final
2, 4. soul. 6. soul.

rit. 2, 4. soul, in my soul. 6. soul, in my soul.

Csus4 C *D.S.* 2, 4 *D.C.* Final
F Fsus4 F F Fsus4 F

Bb F/A Csus4 C F Fsus4 F

rit. *molto rit.*

O God, Be the Music

(Guitar/Vocal)

Dan Schutte

INTRO/INTERLUDE *With majesty* (♩ = ca. 120)

Capo 3: (Dsus4) (D) (D/F#) (G) (Asus4) (A)
 Fsus4 F F/A B♭ Csus4 C

(Kbd)

(F#m) (Bm) (Em) (D/F#) (G) (Asus4) (A)
 Am Dm Gm F/A B♭ Csus4 C

rit.

VERSES

(D) (Gmaj7) (G/A) (D) (A/C#)
 F Bbmaj7 B♭/C F C/E

a tempo

1. O God, be the mu - sic that wak - ens my day; your
 2. O God, be the mu - sic that qui - ets my night; your
 3. O God, be the mu - sic that quick - ens my feet; your
 4. O God, be the mu - sic that cap - tures my heart; my
 5. O God, be the mu - sic that hal - lows my years; a
 6. O God, be the mu - sic that car - ries me home to

(Bm) (Bm/A) (Gmaj7) (Em) (Asus4) (A) (A/G) (F#m)
 Dm Dm/C Bbmaj7 Gm Csus4 C C/B♭ Am

1. song be a light on my way. _____
 2. voice be my joy and de - light. _____
 3. path be the place where we meet. _____
 4. life be your great work of art. _____
 5. friend in my joys and my tears. _____
 6. sit at the foot of your throne. _____

And in all that will

(C6) (G) (F#) (Bm) (Bm/A) (Gmaj7) (Em) (A7sus4) (G/A)
 Eb6 B♭ A Dm Dm/C Bbmaj7 Gm C7sus4 B♭/C

1-6. be, may your mu - sic car - ry me as you sing heav - en's song in my

1, 3, 5	(D) (Dsus4) (D)	(G)	(D/F#)	(Asus4)	(A)	2, 4	(D) (Dsus4) (D)
	F Fsus4 F	B♭	F/A	Csus4	C		F Fsus4 F
				<i>rit.</i>	<i>D.S.</i>		<i>D.C.</i>

1, 3, 5. soul. _____

2, 4. soul. _____

Final	(D) (Dsus4) (D)	(G)	(D/F#)	(Asus4)	(A)	(D) (Dsus4) (D)
	F Fsus4 F	B♭	F/A	Csus4	C	F Fsus4 F
				<i>rit.</i>		<i>molto rit.</i>

6. soul. _____

O God, Be the Music

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

Dan Schutte

INTRO *With majesty* (♩ = ca. 120)

VERSE 1

VERSE 2

16

INTERLUDE

10

VERSE 3

10

VERSE 4

16

INTERLUDE

10

VERSE 5

9

VERSE 6

3

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Composer Notes

God is the source of all that is good and beautiful. For those who love music and walk as people of faith, experiencing the power of that beauty as it enters our hearts through music is transcendent, often bringing us to tears. This piece invites God into our lives as the music that carries us, uplifts us, and is our companion in good times and in bad.

“O God, Be the Music” is styled in verse form, but with a common lyric during the second half of each verse acting as a refrain. This element makes it easier for a congregation to learn the piece.

The song works equally well with piano and/or guitar. When guitar is used, it’s probably more appropriately finger-picked than strummed. When using both instruments – guitar and piano – together, as with all ensembles, it’s important to allow one to be the “lead” instrument and to think of the other as “supporting.” In other words, if the guitar is used as the main instrument, the pianist must consider adding color and interest to the sound, rather than vying with the guitar for the leadership role.

For congregational singing, it’s usually best to have the choir sing in unison for the first verse. This allows the non-trained assembly to hear the melody clearly before the choir begins to add harmonic elements. Adding something different for the second verse – such as SAB harmonies or the wonderful hymn technique of having only the men or women of the congregation sing – helps to bring this piece to its full potential. And, of course, the final verse is the best time to add the descant.

This song has many appropriate liturgical applications – prelude, preparation and presentation of the gifts, post-Communion. And because it is a song inviting God to be part of our journey of faith, it fits any kind of commitment/missioning service or even the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.


—Dan Schutte

Preview


Assembly Edition

O GOD, BE THE MUSIC


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1. O God, be the mu - sic that wak - ens my day;
2. O God, be the mu - sic that qui - ets my night;
3. O God, be the mu - sic that quick - ens my feet;
4. O God, be the mu - sic that cap - tures my heart,
5. O God, be the mu - sic that hal - lows my years;
6. O God, be the mu - sic that car - ries me home



1. your song be a light on my way.
2. your voice be my joy and de - light.
3. your path be the place where we meet.
4. my life be your great work of art.
5. a friend in my joys and my tears.
6. to sit at the foot of your throne.



1-6. And in all that will be, may your mu - sic car - ry me



1-6. as you sing heav - en's song in my soul.

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