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Hallelujah: a sestina

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Robert Francis

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no. 9

Robert Francis Hallelujah: A Sestina Alan Stringer

The wind's word, the
He-brew Hal-le-lu-jah, I wonder that they never
gave it to a boy (Hal for short) boy with wind-wild hair.
It means Praise God, as well it should since praise is what
God is for. Why didn't they call my father Hal-le-
lu-jah instead of Eb-en-e-zer? E-ben, of course, was

Note: Men sing unison until 4-part section at the end.
Women begin in unison but follow arrows for division into parts.

Christ-ened Eb-eN-e-zer, product of No-va Sco-tia

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

8va (hal-le-lu-jah), *8va* Daniel, a country doc-tor, was his

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

8va fa-ther and my fa-ther was his tenth and fin- *8va* al

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

boy. A ba-by and last, he had a ba-by's praïse: red

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

pet-ti-coat, red cheeks, and crow- black hair. A boy

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

has lit-tle to say *8va* a-bout his hair and lit-tle a-bout a

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

name like Eb-en-e-zer ex-cept that he can short-en

The first system of music features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment uses chords and single notes.

nei-ther. Praise God for that, for that shout Hal-le-lu-jah.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *sfz*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines.

Shout Hal-le-lu-jah for every-thing a boy can be

The third system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes a *slower* marking and a *tra* (trill) marking. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

that is not his fa-ther or grand-fa-ther

The fourth system features the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes a *mf* marking and a *A tempo* instruction. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

But then be-fore you

The fifth system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes a *p* (piano) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes.

Know it, he is a fa-ther too and pass-ing on his

The sixth system features the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes *tra* (trill) markings. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

brand of hair to one more per-fect-ly de-fense-less

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

boy, Dubb bing him John or James or Eb-en-e-zer, but

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 nev-er as far as I know, Hal-le-lu-jah, as if God

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 did-n't need quite that much praise. But what I'm

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

com-ing to — could I ev-er praise my fa-ther half e-

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

nough for be-ing a fa-ther who let me be my-

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 -----

self, Sing hal - le - lu - jah; Preach - er he was with a

F MF

+8 pro - phet's head of hair and what but a pro - phet's

slowing slightly

name was Eb - e - ne - zer, how - ev - er lit - tle I guessed it

dine rit.

as a boy? Out - land - ish names, of course, are

F A tempo

never a boy's choice. And it takes time to learn to praise.

+8 Stone of Help is the meaning of Eb - e - ne - zer

stone of Help - what fit-ter name for my fa-ther? Al-

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

ways the Stone of Help how-ev-er his hair might

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 grad-u-ate from black to Hal-le-lu-jah.

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

In 4 parts - much slower

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

dra-ma of boy and fa-ther. Praise from a gray-head now

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

with thin-ning hair. Sing Eb-en-e-zer, Rob-ert, sing Hal-le-lu-jah!

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.