

# The Dialogue of Zion and God

for eight solo voices

Robert Saxton

University of York Music Press

ISMN M 57020 189 1

**THE DIALOGUE OF ZION AND GOD**  
[ ehm habahneem- the mother of children ]

for  
eight solo voices  
[ 2 sopranos, alto, counter-tenor, 2 tenors, 2 basses ]

poem by

Eleazar ben Kallir

music by

Robert Saxton

'The Dialogue of Zion and God' was commissioned by The Clerks' Group with funds provided by the Jerwood Foundation.

The first performance was given on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2000 at the Wigmore Hall, London, by The Clerks' Group, directed by Edward Wickham.

I am indebted to Dr. Susan Gillingham and Helen-Ann Francis of Worcester College, Oxford, for their advice and time spent on the transliteration of the Hebrew text.

NOTE: in the transliteration, a lower-case 'ch' denotes a hard sound('k');  
an upper-case 'CH' denotes a guttural sound, as in the German 'ich'.

Duration: 5 minutes circa

## אם הנקנים

אם הנקנים קיונה מנהמת,  
בלב מתאוננת וכפה מתרעמת.  
גוצה בבכי וקמר נואמת,  
הקעות מזלת ודוממת ונדדמת:

'השליכני מעלי וקר מעלי,  
ולא זכר אהבת גלולי,  
זרני וסורני מעל גבילי,  
חרה עלי כל חוללי.

קרסני בנה ומסניו הדיסני,  
הקשני בכבד ולא הניסני,  
קלו עיני מחוכחות וקסני,  
למה לגצח עונסני שקסני?

'מה תחאונני עלי יונחי,  
גטע חמד צרוגה גנחי?  
שיח מלולדך פקר עניחי,  
צטור בך באו הניחי.

פניחי אלוד נרחמי תרביס,  
צעוד קשצר בת רביס,  
המנד, אשר עלוד מתרביס,  
רצשתי הילח קצשן רביס.

שחורחי, לצד לא אונתך,  
שניה אוסיף יד ואקמתך,  
תמו וקסו דברי וכיחך,  
תמחי, לא אשכחך ולא אשחחך.

- verse 1: Israel, personified as 'the mother', is described weeping (lower voices)
- verse 2: She describes her abandonment by her husband and her rejection (entry of sopranos)
- verse 3: She asks why 'he' has forsaken her
- verse 4: God replies, calming her
- verse 5: God speaks of His compassion towards her and how he has destroyed her enemies
- verse 6: God reassures her, saying that he will never forsake or forget her.

for Edward Wickham and The Clerks' Group

# THE DIALOGUE OF ZION AND GOD

Eleazar ben Kallir (6th C AD?)

(ehm habahneem---The mother of children)

Robert Saxton (2000)

*♩ = 52-56 lamentoso*

The musical score is written for Soprano, Counter-tenor, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano and Counter-tenor parts are currently blank. The Tenor and Bass parts contain the following lyrics: *p* ehm ha - bah - neem ke oh - nah. The score includes musical notation with notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

5

S.  
S.  
A.  
C-T.  
T.  
T.  
B.  
B.

me - na he - met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et u - va  
me - na he - met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen et u - va - pe mit - ra -  
me - na he - met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et  
me - na he - met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et u - va -

*mp* *p* *mf* *poco a poco cresc* *poco a poco cresc*

*un poco piu mosso*

3

♩ = 60-63

9

S. \_\_\_\_\_

S. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* *mf*  
go - ah biv - CHee oov - e - mar noh e -

C-T. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* *mf*  
go - ah biv - CHee oov - e - mar

T. *mf* [non dim] *mp*  
- pe mit - ra - e - met go - ah biv -

T. [non dim] *mp*  
- e - met go - ah biv -

B. *f dim* *mp*  
u - va - pe mit - ra - e - met go - ah biv - CHee

B. *f dim* *mp*  
- pe mit - ra - e - met go - ah biv - CHee

12

*un poco agitato*  
*mf*

S. hish - lee - cha - nee ba - a

*un poco agitato*  
*mf*

S. hish lee - cha - nee ba - a

*mp [sempre]*

A. - met de - mah - oht ma - ze - let ved - oh - mem - et ehm

*mp [sempre]*

C.T. noh e - met de - mah - oht ma - ze - let ve - doh - me - met ehm

T. CHee ved - oh me - met ehm ha -

T. CHee ved - oh me - met ehm ha -

*poco a poco dim*

B. ved - oh - me - met

*pp*

B. ved - oh - me - met



15

The musical score consists of eight staves. The top two staves are for Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.), the next two for Contralto (C-T.) and Tenor (T.), and the bottom two for Bass (B.). The score is divided into two systems by a vertical bar line. The first system covers measures 15-16, and the second system covers measures 17-18. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *pp* (pianissimo). The lyrics are in a non-Latin script, likely Thai, and are written below the notes.

S. -lee ve sahr meh ah - lai ve - lo zah - kar a - ha - vat ke - loo - lai

S. lee ve - sahr meh - ah - lai ve - lo zah - kar a - ha - vat ke - loo - lai

A. ha - bah neem ke - oh -

C-T. ha - bah neem ke

T. - bah neem ke - oh -

T. - bah neem ke - oh -

B. *pp*

B.

17

zoh - ra - nee u - phiz - ra - nee meh - al ge - voo - lai CHI - dah ah - lai

zoh - ra - nee - u - phiz - ra - nee meh - al ge - voo - lai CHI - dah ah

nah me - na he -

oh - nah me - na he -

nah me - na he -

nah me - na he -

B.

B.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 6, starting at measure 17. It features six vocal parts: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Contralto (C-T.), Tenor 1 (T.), Tenor 2 (T.), and Bass (B.). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics in Chinese characters. The Alto, Contralto, and Tenor parts have lyrics in English. The Bass parts are empty. The score includes musical notation with notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf*. The Alto, Contralto, and Tenor parts have a crescendo leading to the *mf* marking.

19

S. *ff*  
\_ kohl toh - lah - lai te - rah phah - nee ke - ni - dah

S. *ff*  
-lai kohl toh - lah - lai te rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

A. *ff*  
met te - rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

C-T. *ff*  
met te - rah - pha - nee ke - ni - dah

T. *ff*  
met te - rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

T. *ff*  
met te - rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

B. *ff*  
te - rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

B. *ff*  
te - rah - phah - nee ke - ni - dah

*mf*  
S. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
S. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
A. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
C-T. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
T. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
T. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
B. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - ka - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

*mf*  
B. — oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - ka - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a SATB choir. It contains eight staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The lyrics are: "oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee". The score is marked with a dynamic of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of each line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The page number 23 is at the top left, and the page number 8 is at the top left of the page.

27

S. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

S. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

A. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

C-T. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

T. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

T. CHa - nee kah loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

B. CHa nee kah loo eh nai bet - oh - ah CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

B. CHa - nee kah - loo - eh - nai bet - oh - CHOht vi - ke - CHa - nee lah - mah lah - net - saCH.

S. *pp*  
 a - zah - va - nee

S. *pp*  
 a - zah - va - nee

A. *pp*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee

C-T. *pp*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee

T. *ppp* *p*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee mah

T. *ppp* *p*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee mah

B. *ppp*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee

B. *ppp*  
 a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee

38

S.   
 S.   
 A.   
 C-T.   
 T.   
 T.   
 B.   
 B.

*mp* [*sempre*]   
 mah [ah]   
*mp* [*sempre*]   
 mah [ah]   
*mp* [*sempre*]   
*mp* [*sempre*]   
*mf*   
 mah tith - ohn - nee ah - lai yoh nah - tee   
*mf*   
 mah tith - ohn - nee ah - lai yoh nah - tee

ne -   
 [2]   
 [2]   
 [2]   
 [2]   
 [2]   
 [2]

44

S. ne - ta CHE - med a - roo - gath ga - na - tee see - cha pi -

S. - ta CHE - med a - roo - gath ga - na - tee see - cha pi -

A. mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai

C.T. mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai

T. mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai

T. mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai

B. see - CHA pi -

B. see - CHA pi -



49

S. -loo-lai -yik ke-var ah-nee-tee ah-toor bahk ke-ahz CHa-nee-

S. -loo-lai -yik ke-var ah-nee-tee ah-toor bahk ke-ahz CHa-nee-

A. yohn ah-tee ne-ta CHE med a-roo-gath

C-T. yohn ah-tee ne-ta CHE med a-roo-gath

T. yohn ah-tee ne-ta CHE med a-roo-gath

T. yohn ah-tee ne-ta CHE med a-roo-gath

B. -loo-lai -yik ke-var ah-nee-tee ah-toor bahk ke-ahz CHa-nee-

B. -loo-lai -yik ke-var ah-nee-tee ah-toor bahk ke-ahz CHa-nee-

S. tee

S. tee

A. ga - nah - tee. *f* pah - nee - tee *f* 3

C-T. ga - nah - tee. *f* pah - nee - tee *f* 3

T. ga - nah - tee. *f* pah - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be - *f*

T. ga - nah - tee. *f* pah - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be - *f*

B. tee pah - nee - tee. eh - lai - yik be - ra CHa - mai ha - ra - beem. *f*

B. tee pah - nee - tee. eh - lai - yik be - ra CHa - mai ha - ra - beem. *f*



64

*cresc* *ff* *mf cresc*

S. - ra beem tsah ohd be - sha-ar bat - ra-beem kah-mai-yik a-sher ah-lai-yik mit-ra

*cresc* *ff* *mf cresc*

S. mai ha-ra- beem tsah ohd be-shaar bat - ra-beem kah-mai-yika-sher ah-lai-yik mit-ra

A. beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher

C-T. beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher

T. beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher

T. beshaar bat ra - beem mai - yik a - sher

B. beshaar bat ra - beem kah - mai - yik a - sher

B. beshaar bat ra - beem kah - mai - yik a - sher

*mf* *cresc* *ff*

*mf* *cresc* *ff*

*mf* *cresc* *ff*

*mf* *cresc* *ff*

69 *fff* *poco a poco dim*

S. *fff* beem ri - ash - tee ke - ah - shan ka - beem ke - ah -

S. *fff* *poco a poco dim* beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan ka - beem ke - ah -

A. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

C-T. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

T. *mf* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* lai - yik mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

T. *mf* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* lai - yik mit - ra - beem ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

B. *mf* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* ah - lai - yik mit - ra - beem ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

B. *mf* *ff* *mf* *f* *dim* ah - lai - yik mit - ra - beem ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

*poco a poco rall*

74

S. *p*  
shan - kah - beem

S. *p*  
shan - kah - beem

A. *p* *dim*  
ri - ash - tee\_ he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

C-T. *p* *dim*  
ri - ash - tee\_ he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem

T. *p* *dim*  
ke - ah - shan kah - beem

T. *p* *dim*  
ke - ah - shan kah - beem

B. [*p*]  
ke - ah - shan kah - beem

B. [*p*] *ppp*  
ke - ah - shan kah - beem

*meno mosso*

♩ = 60-63

78

**S.** *p cresc* *mp* *[mp]*  
lah - ad lo ez - nah - CHehk sheh - neet

**A.** *pp cresc* *mp* *p cresc* *mp* *[mp]*  
she - CHoh - rah - tee lah - ad lo ez - nah CHehk she -

**C-T.** *pp cresc* *mp* *p cresc* *mp*  
she - CHoh - rah - tee lah ad lo ez - nah CHehk

**T.** *ppp*

**T.** *ppp*

**B.** *ppp*

**B.**

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble. It features six staves: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Contralto (C-T.), Tenor 1 (T.), Tenor 2 (T.), and Bass (B.). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics and dynamic markings. The Soprano part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc*), followed by a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a triplet of notes. The Alto part starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and a crescendo, then moves to mezzo-piano (*mp*), piano (*p*) with a crescendo, and finally mezzo-piano (*mp*) with a triplet. The Contralto part follows a similar dynamic pattern. The Tenor and Bass parts are marked *ppp* (pianissimo) and contain sustained notes. The score is numbered 78 at the beginning and 19 at the top right. The tempo is marked *meno mosso* with a quarter note equal to 60-63 beats per minute.

S.

S. 
 oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh\_
   
*mp* *mf*

A. 
 neet oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh\_
   
*mp* *mf*

C-T. 
 she - neet oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh\_
   
*[mp]* *mp* *mf*

T.

T.

B. 
 she - CHoh - - - rah -
   
*mp* *mf*

B. 
 she - CHoh - - - rah -
   
*mp* *mf*



*mp* — *mf cresc*

*f*

S. ta - ma - tee lo

S. vi - koo - CHEhk ta - mah - tee lo

A. vi - koo - CHEhk ta - mah - tee lo e - ez -

C-T. vi - koo - CHEhk ta - mah - tee lo e - ez -

T. *mf* vi - koo - CHEhk ta - mah - tee

T. *mf* vi - koo - CHEhk ta - mah - tee

B. - tee tam - ah - tee

B. - tee tam - ah - tee

*cresc* *cresc* *cresc* *cresc* *cresc* *cresc* *cresc* *cresc*

89

*cresc* *fff*

S. e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHEhk

S. e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHEhk

A. *f* *cresc* *fff*  
vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHEhk

C-T. *f* *cresc* *fff*  
vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHEhk

T. *f* *cresc* *fff*  
lo e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah - CHEhk

T. *f* *cresc* *fff*  
lo e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHEhk

B. *f* *ff* *fff*  
lo ez - vehk

B. *f* *ff* *fff*  
lo ez - vehk