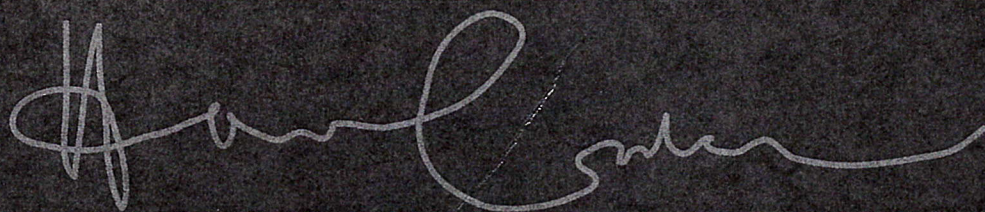
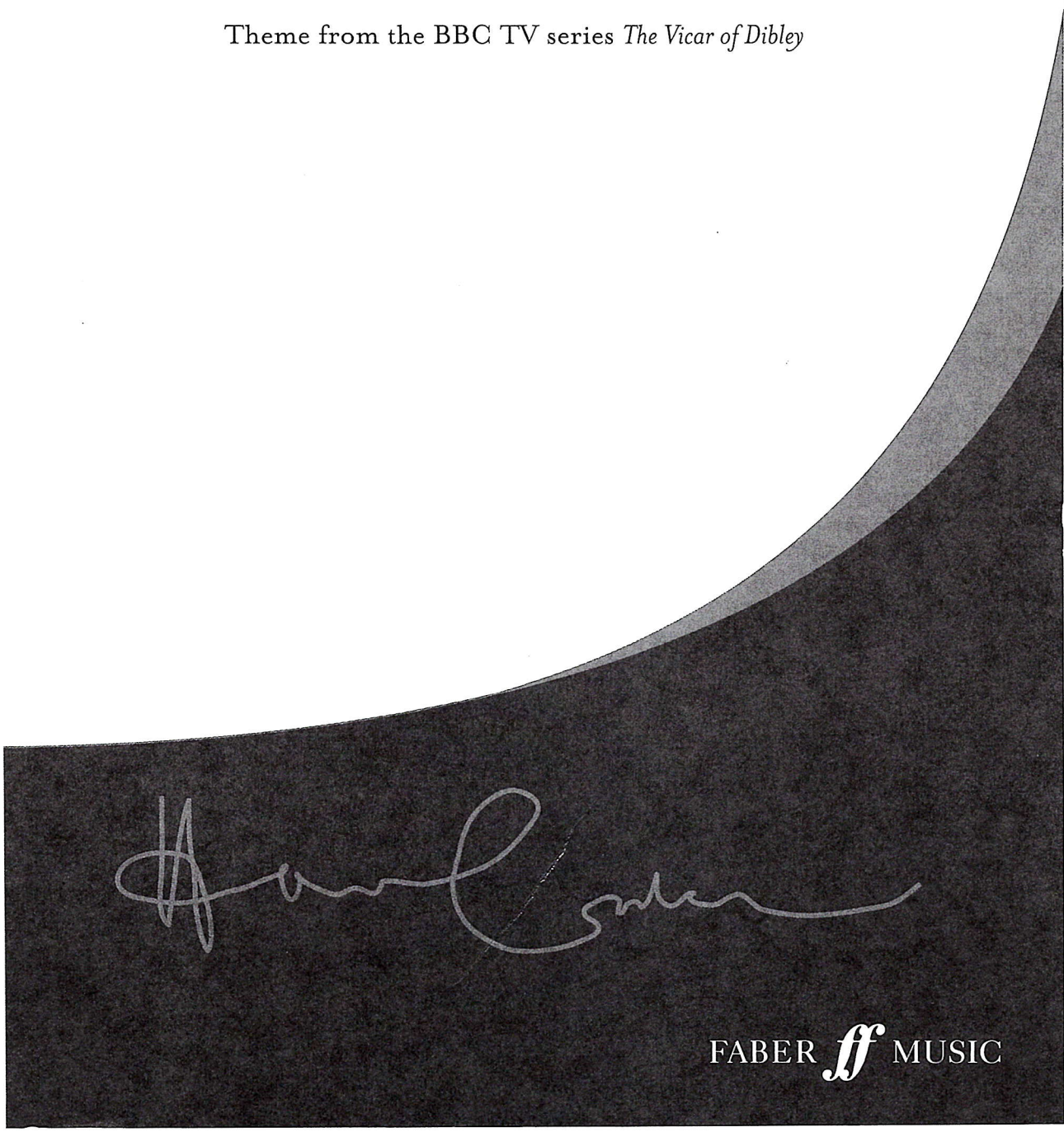


HOWARD GOODALL

The Lord is My Shepherd
(Psalm 23)

Theme from the BBC TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*



FABER *ff* MUSIC

Composer Note

In 1994 Richard Curtis approached me to write the theme for what was to become BBC TV's classic comedy series, *The Vicar of Dibley*. I felt that the setting of a familiar sacred text – and the use of some real choral singing – would offset perfectly the quirky humour of the storylines; as it had also been my ambition for some time to write a setting of *The Lord is my Shepherd* (Psalm 23), I was delighted that the creative team loved the idea.

Thanks to the immense popularity of *The Vicar of Dibley* on British TV and elsewhere around the world, I have managed to give a whole new generation of younger listeners and singers a version of this wonderful Psalm that they can truly call their own. Indeed, this piece has become a stand-alone choral classic since it was introduced to audiences through the TV series, and I feel humbled when I realise that for many people under 30 in the UK and Australia it is the *only* tune for *The Lord is my Shepherd* that they now know. I consider myself blessed to have been able to share my setting of it with so many others of all possible backgrounds and beliefs.

Howard Goodall, August 2004

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The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)

Theme from the BBC TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*

Psalm 23

HOWARD GOODALL

♩. = 40

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO/
ORGAN

p dolce, legato sempre

5

SOPRANO SOLO *mp legato sempre*

The Lord is my

10

shep - herd, I _____ shall not want; He mak - eth me _____ to lie

15

down in green pas - tures: He lead - - -

19

- eth me - - - be - side - - - the still - - -

23 S. TUTTI *mp legato*

wa - ters. The Lord is my

A. *mp legato*

The Lord is my

T. *mp legato*

The Lord - - -

B. *mp legato*

The Lord - - -

mp

28

shep - herd, I _____ shall not want; He mak - eth me _____ to lie

shep - herd, I _____ shall not want; He mak - eth me _____ to lie

_____ want; He mak - eth me _____ to lie

_____ want; He mak - eth me,

The musical score for measures 28-32 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "shep - herd, I _____ shall not want; He mak - eth me _____ to lie". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

33

down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - - eth me _____

down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - - eth me _____

down in green: _____ He lead - - - - eth me _____

down in green pas - tures: He _____ lead - eth me _____

The musical score for measures 33-37 continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: "down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - - eth me _____". The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line in the left hand, with eighth notes and quarter notes, while the right hand continues with chords.

38

be - side the still wa - ters.

be - side the still wa - ters.

be - side the still wa - ters.

be - side the still wa - ters.

mf

This block contains the musical notation for measures 38 through 42. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'be - side the still wa - ters.' are repeated for each voice part. The piano part includes a crescendo hairpin and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

43

mf Yea, though I walk through the

mf Yea, though I walk through the

mf Yea, though I walk through the

mf Yea, though I walk through the

f

This block contains the musical notation for measures 43 through 47. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'Yea, though I walk through the' are repeated for each voice part. The piano part includes a crescendo hairpin and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

47

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no

The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand, primarily using eighth and quarter notes.

51

e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the

e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the

e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the

e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the

The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with sixteenth and thirty-second notes, while the left hand continues with a steady bass line.

55

val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:

val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:

val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:

val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:

60

For you are with me, you will com - fort me,

For you are with me, you will com - fort me,

For you are with me, you will com - fort me,

For you are with me, you will com - fort me,

sempre cresc.

65

you are with me, you will com - fort me. *f*

you are with me, you will com - fort me. *f*

you are with me, you will com - fort me, *f*

you are with me, you will com - fort me. *f*

The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand, with a crescendo leading to a fortissimo (f) dynamic at the end of the system.

71

TENORS

mp

com - fort me.

The Tenor part consists of a single melodic line with a long note value. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a moving bass line, featuring a crescendo and fortissimo (f) dynamic.

77

SOPRANO SOLO

Sure - ly good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me.

The Soprano Solo part features a melodic line with a long note value. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a moving bass line, marked with a piano (p) dynamic.

TUTTI

mp

82 S. *mp*
all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the

A. *mp*
And I will dwell in the

T. *mp*
And I will dwell in the

B. *mp*
And I,



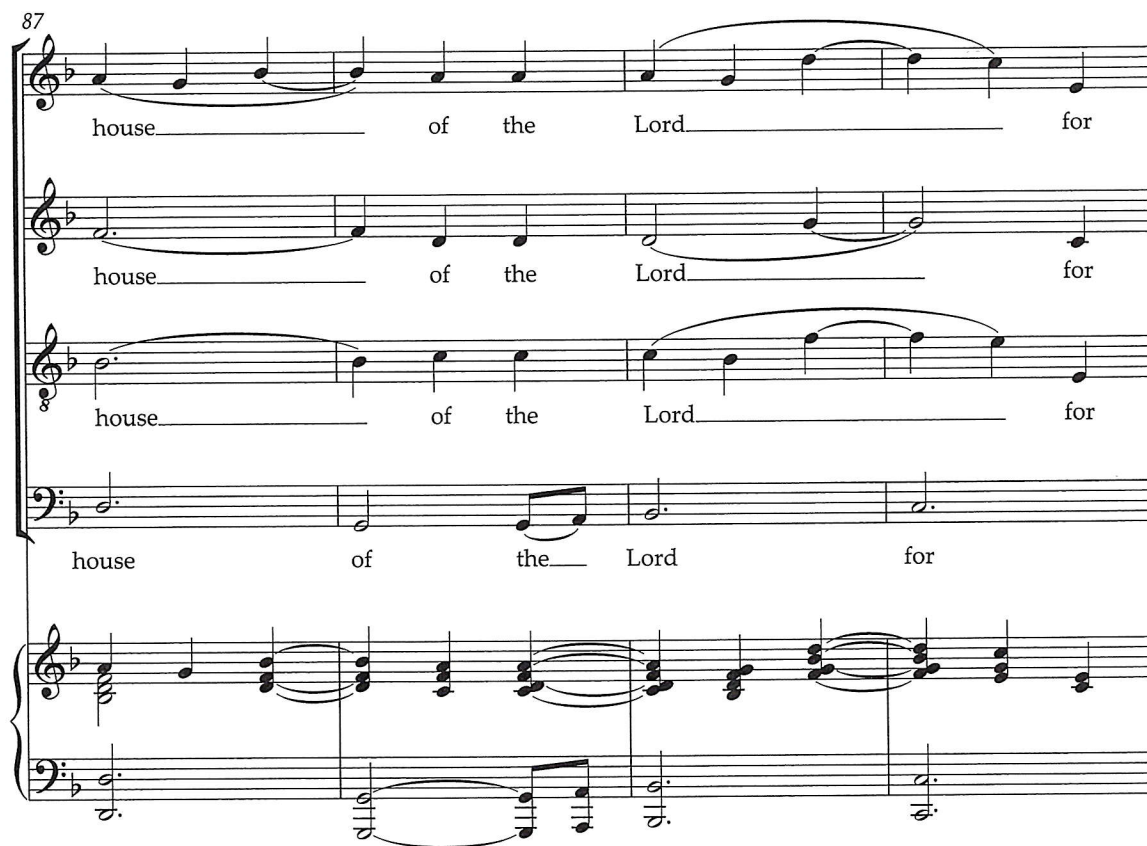
87

house of the Lord for

house of the Lord for

house of the Lord for

house of the Lord for



91

Four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "ev - er, for ev - er." Dynamics: *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

ev - er, for ev - er.

ev - er, for ev - er.

ev - er, for ev - er.

ev - er, for ev - er.

96 SOPRANOS

Soprano and piano accompaniment. The Soprano part has the lyrics "for ev - er,". Dynamics: *pp* (pianissimo). The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords.

for ev - er,

100 rall. SOPRANO SOLO

Soprano Solo and piano accompaniment. The Soprano part has the lyrics "for ev - er." Dynamics: *rall.* (ritardando). The piano accompaniment features a long, sweeping melodic line in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line.

for ev - er.