

For Lance and Marci
on the occasion of their wedding,
July 18, 1998

Be Near Me Love

*Be near me love, with thee I must abide
And love only each other 'till the end of time.
Until our dying. I'll be here to
Comfort and to guide throughout the years.*

*Have you not heard the music from my heart?
It sighs and sighs for where thou art.
To have you near me in the warmth of summer days
When hand in hand we'll walk around in purple haze.*

*Be near me love.
To have and to hold, since God in heav'n doth sanctify,
Doth cast His blessing on us.*

*Be near me love, with thee I must abide
And love only each other 'till the end of time.
Until our dying.*

Words and music by
Paul A. Aitken (ASCAP)

With simplicity and tempo rubato

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Rehearsal Piano. It begins with a tempo marking of 'With simplicity and tempo rubato'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Be near me love, with thee I must a-bide And love on-ly each oth-er 'till the end of'. The Soprano and Alto parts have the full lyrics, while the Tenor and Bass parts have partial lyrics. The Rehearsal Piano part provides accompaniment with chords and melodic lines.

4

S *p*
time. Un - - - til our dy - ing. I'll be here to

A *p*
time. Un - - - til our dy - ing. I'll be here to

T *p*
time. Un - til our dy - ing. I'll be here to

B *p*
time. Un - til our dy - ing. I'll be here

Pno. *p*

7

S *rit.* *mp a tempo*
com - fort and to guide through - out the years. Have you not heard the mu - sic

A *rit.* *mp a tempo*
com - fort and to guide through - out the years. Have you not heard the mu - sic

T *rit.* *p a tempo*
com - fort and to guide through - out the years. Mus - ic

B *rit.*
through the years. —

Pno. *rit.* *mp a tempo*

10

S from my heart? It sighs and sighs and sighs for where thou art. To

A from my heart? Sighs and sighs and sighs for where thou art. To

T from my heart? Sighs _____ and sighs for where thou art. To

B From my heart? Sighs and sighs, where thou art. To

Pno.

13

S have you near me. Have you near me in the warmth of sum - mer days When

A have you near me. Have you near me in the warmth of sum - mer days When

T have you near me in sum - mer days when

B have you near me in sum - mer days when

Pno.

16

S hand in hand we'll walk a - round in pur - ple haze.

A hand in hand we'll walk a - round in pur - ple, pur - ple haze.

T 8 hand in hand we'll walk a - round in pur - ple, round in pur - ple haze.

B hand in hand we'll walk a - round in pur - ple, pur - ple haze.

Pno.

mf

19

S Love. Be near me love.

A Love. Be near me in

T 8 Be near me love. Be near me love, in love.

B Love. Be near me

Pno.

rit. *a tempo*

22 *cres.* $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$ *f*

S To have and to hold, since God in heav'n doth sanc - ti - fy, doth

A *cres.* $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$ *f*
love. To have and to hold, since God in heav'n doth sanc - ti - fy, doth

T *cres.* $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$ *f*
8 To have and to hold, since God in heav'n doth cast His bless - ing, doth

B *cres.* *f*
love. God in heav'n doth sanc - ti - fy, doth

Pno. *cres.* $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$ $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$ *f*

25 *rit.*

S sanc - ti - fy, doth sanc - ti - fy Be near me

A sanc - ti - fy, doth sanc - ti - fy

T *8* cast His bless - - - ing on us.

B sanc - ti - fy, doth sanc - ti - fy

Pno. *rit.*

28

S
love, be near, be near me love. Near me.

A
Near me love, be near love, be near me

T
8
Near me love, love, be near me love, be near me

B
Love. Love, be near me, near me love.

Pno.
28
a tempo

30

S
p
Be near me love, with thee I must a-bide And love on-ly each oth-er 'till the end of

A
p
love. Near me love, with thee I must a-bide And love on-ly each oth-er 'till the end of

T
p
8
love. Thee I must a-bide And love on-ly each oth-er 'till the eand of

B
p
Love. I must a-bide And love 'till the end of

Pno.
30
p

33

S time. Un - - - - til our dy - - - - ing.

A time. Un - - - - til our dy - - - - ing.

T time. Un - - - - til our dy - - - - ing.

B time. Un - - - - til our dy - - - - ing.

Pno.

33

rit.

About the Composer, Paul A. Aitken

Paul Aitken began his professional career in 1996 at *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale* where he was lecturer of music theory and private applied voice. He was associate director of the Southern Illinois Children's Choir (1996-97): conducting, advising, and premiering new music. While living in Illinois, Paul adjudicated vocal and choral music at the regional and state-wide levels.

The first-ever winner of the American Choral Directors Association's (ACDA) prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Student Composition Competition Award (1999) for *Flanders Fields*, Paul has also won honorable mention in the Mu Phi Epsilon 1997 Original Composition Competition. Essentially a composer of choral music, Paul has scored original works for English handbells and for organ as well. Dr. Aitken's compositions have been performed and recorded throughout the United States, in Canada, and in Europe. He is published in the Lawson/Gould catalog (a division of Alfred Publications) and under the FlandersPublishing.com label.

Currently, Dr. Aitken is the National Chair of the Music in Worship Repertoire and Standards Committee for the American Choral Directors Association. He has twice been a national judge for ACDA competitions, and his biography has been included in both the 2006 and the 2007 Marquis editions of *Who's Who in America*.

Born in Canada in 1970, Aitken holds degrees from the *University of Western Ontario* and *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*, and the *University of Oklahoma*. First and foremost a husband and father, Paul is also Director of Music Ministry at the *Cathedral of the Rockies* in Boise, Idaho where he oversees sixteen ensembles and bands, and the *Cathedral Conservatory*.