

# Ye Are Even As The Bird

SSAATB

Bahá'u'lláh

John Thomas Higgins

$\text{♩} = 60$

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

Ye are e-ven as the bird which soar-eth, with the full force of its

4

might-y wings and with com-plete and joy-ous con-fi-dence through the im - men-si-ty of the

8

heav- ens, heav- ens\_ un - til, im-pelled to sat-is - fy its hun-ger, hun- ger\_

it

13

turn-eth long-ing-ly to the wat-er\_ and clay of the earth\_ be-low it, \_

16

and, hav-ing been en-trapped in the mesh of its de - sire find - eth it - self\_\_

and, hav-ing be en-trapped in the mesh of its de - sire find - eth it - self\_\_

19

im-po-tent to re - sume its flight to the realms\_ whence it came.

im-po-tent to re - sume its flight to the realms whence it came\_\_

23

Pow-er-less to shake off the bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird,

Pow-er-less to shake off the bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird,

26

hi-ther-to an in-mate of the heav ens,\_ heav - ens,\_ is now forced to seek a dwel-ling place

ah ah heav ens,\_ heav - ens,\_ is now forced to seek a dwel-ling place

30

**rit.** . . . . . ♩ = 60

— u-pon the dust.\_ Where-fore, O My ser- vants, de - file not your wings with the

— u-pon the dust.\_ Where-fore, O My ser- vants, de - file not your wings with the

34

clay of way-ward-ness and vain de-sires. The world is but a show, vain\_ and

38

The world is but a show, vain\_ and emp-ty,--  
emp-ty-- a mere noth- ing

42

Set not your af-fec- tions u-pon it.  
-- bear- ing the semb- lance of re- al- i- ty.

46

The world is but a show, vain\_ and emp-ty,-- a mere noth- ing\_ bear- ing the semb- lance

51

The world is but a show, vain\_ and emp-ty,-- a mere noth- ing\_ bear- ing the semb- lance  
of re- al- i- ty. Set not\_ your af-fec- tions u-pon it. The world is but a show

of re- al- i- ty. Set not your af-fec- tions u-pon it. The world is but a show,

55

vain and emp-ty Set not your af - fec - tions\_ Set not your af-fec-tions

vain and emp-ty Set not your af - fec - tions\_ Set not your af-fec-tions

59 Solo, sing slowly

u-pon it.\_\_\_\_ Ye are e-ven as the bird which soar - eth,

u-pon it.\_\_\_\_

*Ye are even as the bird which soareth, with the full force of its mighty wings and with complete and joyous confidence, through the immensity of the heavens, until, impelled to satisfy its hunger, it turneth longingly to the water and clay of the earth below it, and, having been entrapped in the mesh of its desire, findeth itself impotent to resume its flight to the realms whence it came. Powerless to shake off the burden weighing on its sullied wings, that bird, hitherto an inmate of the heavens, is now forced to seek a dwelling-place upon the dust. Wherefore, O My servants, defile not your wings with the clay of waywardness and vain desires, ...*

*Gleanings From The Writings Of Bahá'u'lláh, #CLIII, pg 327.*

*Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette, 1976*

*The world is but a show, vain and empty, a mere nothing, bearing the semblance of reality. Set not your affections upon it.*

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Composer's notes:

This piece of music makes use of the technique of 'word painting', the musical depiction of words in the text. The music tries to imitate the emotion or action described in the text, moving upwards as the bird soars, using dissonance as the bird is trapped in the material world. The last section sets parallel fourths and fifths together to emphasize that the world truly is "but a show". JH