

# How Firm A Foundation

Irvin T. Nelson

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Soprano or Tenor Solo

♩ = 58

How

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. It features a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 58. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a whole rest for the first three measures, followed by a half note G4 in the fourth measure. The piano accompaniment starts with a series of chords and moving lines in both hands.

5

firm a foun da-tion, ye Saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in his  
 ev - 'ry con-di - tion, in sick - ness, in health, In pov - er - ty's vale or a -  
 not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed, For I am thy God and will

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The vocal line continues with a melodic line that rises and then descends. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving bass lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staff.

8

ex - cel-lent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 bound - ing in wealth, At home or a - broad, on the land or the sea, As thy  
 still give thee aid; I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The vocal line concludes with a final melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staff.

11

1.2.

You who un - to Je - sus for ref - uge have fled? In  
 days\_\_ may de - mand, so thy suc - cor shall be. Fear  
 Up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent

15

3.

hand. When

19

through the deep wa - ters\_\_ I call thee to go, The riv - ers of sor - row\_\_ shall  
 through fir - ey tri - als\_\_ thy path - way shall lie, My grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall

22

not thee o'er-flow, For I will be with thee, thy trou-bles to bless, And sanc-ti-fy to thee\_ thy  
be thy sup-ply. The flame shall not hurt thee; I on-ly de-sign Thy dross to con-sume and thy

26

1. deep-est dis-tress. When 2. gold to re-fine.

30

Ev-en down to old age, all my peo-ple shall prove My

34



sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn, Like

This system contains measures 34 through 37. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

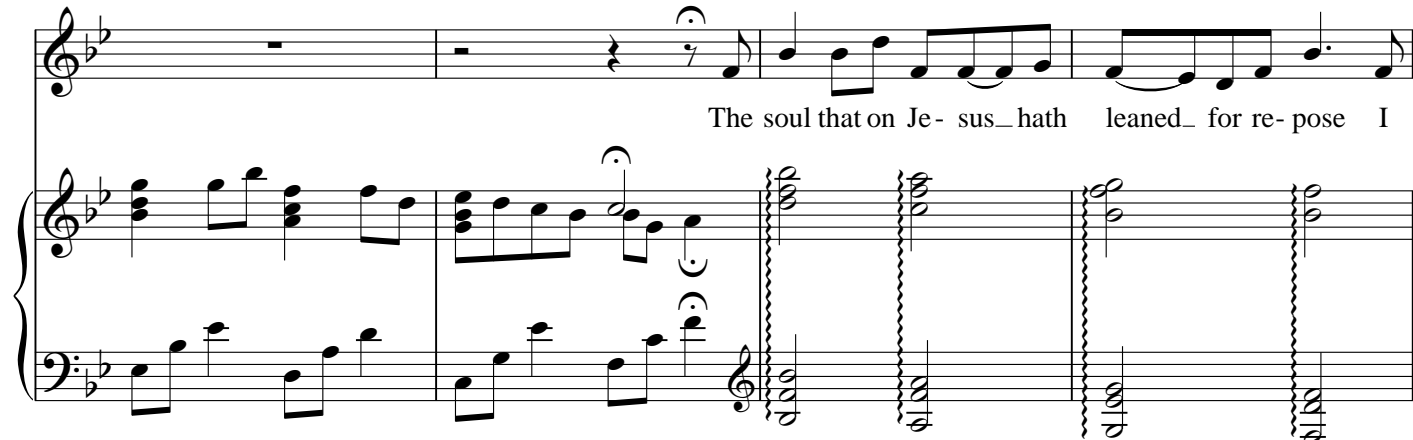
38



lamb shall they still in my bosom be borne.

This system contains measures 38 through 41. The key signature remains B-flat major. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at measure 38, then back to 4/4 at measure 40. The vocal line has a quarter rest at the start of measure 38, followed by notes in 2/4 and 4/4. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line in the left hand, with some tremolos in the right hand.

42



The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I

This system contains measures 42 through 45. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature is 4/4. The vocal line has a quarter rest at the start of measure 42, followed by notes in measures 43-45. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand, with some tremolos in the final measures.

46

will not, I can-not, de- sert\_ to his foes; That soul, though all hell should en-deav- or\_ to shake, I'll

This system contains measures 46 through 49. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "will not, I can-not, de- sert\_ to his foes; That soul, though all hell should en-deav- or\_ to shake, I'll".

50

nev - er, no nev - er I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for-

This system contains measures 50 through 53. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "nev - er, no nev - er I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for-". A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the vocal line at the end of measure 53.

54

sake.

a tempo

rit.

This system contains measures 54 through 57. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "sake.". A *a tempo* marking is present above the vocal line at the start of measure 54. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the piano accompaniment in measure 57.