

Program Notes

O Niske Vane is the fifth movement of *Angel of Light*, a cantata based on Shaker texts and melodies. Adapted from two Shaker anthems from 1840, *O Niske Vane* serves as a dialogue between soprano soloist and chorus, featuring English language text and a refrain in an “unknown tongue.” The use of non-lexical vocables and unknown tongues are common elements of early Shaker music and a prominent focus of *Angel of Light*. The haunting and affirmational refrains in *O Niske Vane* should be sung with expressive warmth and depth of feeling. While initially these words may appear unintelligible, their beauty and meaning emerge in performance.

Text

O niske vane, niske vane
I am an angel of light from the holy *Selincekane*.

O niske vane, niske vane
I have come to bring glad tidings of joy to the
house of Israel,
and bring from your dwelling a spirit of peace,
of meekness and love.

O niske vane, niske vane
So draw near, all ye people, and bow low,
the angels surround you with thousands of blessings,
and their sweetest praises sound.

O niske vane, niske vane
O niske vane, niske vane

—Shaker anthems, New Lebanon, New York, 1840,
and Canterbury, New Hampshire, 1840, adapt.

Pronunciation

O niske vane, niske vane
[o 'nis.kə 'va.ne, 'nis.kə 'va.ne]

Selincekane
[se.lɪn.sə.'ka.ne]

from *Angel of Light* (8778)

Sweet Angels Come Nearer	8779
Lovely Angels	8780
Vum Vive Vum	8781
O Niske Vane	9251
Beautiful Treasure	8782
With My Blessing I Have Blessed You	8783

Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

For biographical information visit:
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Commissioned by the Capitol Chorale; Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

O Niske Vane

from *Angel of Light*

for Soprano Solo and SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

Shaker Anthems
adapt. K. S.

Kevin Siegfried
(ASCAP)

With joy ♩ = ca. 69

mp dolce

Soprano Solo

O nis-ke va-ne, nis-ke va-ne, I
am an an-gel of light, an an-gel of light, from the
ho-ly, ho-ly Se-lin-ce ka-ne.

Warmly

S
A
T
B1
B2

O nis-ke va-ne, nis-ke va-ne
O nis-ke va-ne, nis-ke va-ne
O nis-ke va-ne, nis-ke va-ne
O nis-ke va-ne, nis-ke va-ne

Warmly

for rehearsal only

Text: Shaker anthems, New Lebanon, New York (1840), and Canterbury, New Hampshire (1840), adapt. (PD).

17 *mp*
Solo

I have come to bring glad ti - dings of joy to the

21

house of Is - rael, and bring — from your dwell - ing a

24

spir - it of peace, of meek - ness and love.

27 *p*

S

p

A

p

T

p

B1

p

B2

p

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

O ————— nis - ke va - ne

31 *mf* *emphatically*

Solo

So draw near, _ so draw near, _ all ye peo - ple, and _

35 *p* *dolce*

bow low low low low, the an - gels sur - round you with

40

thou - sands of bless - ings, and their sweet - est _ prais - es _

45

Solo

sound. _

S1 *p* *dolce*

the an - gels sur - round _ you with thou - sands of

S2 *p* *dolce*

the an - gels sur -

S1
S2
A
T

8

bless - ings, and their sweet - est ___ prais - es ___
 round_ you with thou - sands of bless - ings, and their
p dolce
 the an - gels sur - round_ you with thou - sands of
p dolce
 the an - gels sur -

S1
S2
A
T
B

8

sound, the an - gels sur - round_ you with thou - sands of
 sweet - est ___ prais - es ___ sound, and their
 bless - ings, and their sweet - est ___ prais - es ___
 round_ you with thou - sands of bless - ings, and their
p dolce
 the an - gels sur - round_ you with thou - sands of

bless - ings, and their sweet - est prais - es sound.
 sweet - est prais - es sound.
 sound, and their sweet - est prais - es sound.
 sweet - est prais - es sound.
 bless - ings, and their sweet - est prais - es sound.

62 *mf*
 S O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 A *mf* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 T *mf* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 B1 *mf* O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne
 B2 *mf* O nis - ke va - ne

66 *mp* *molto rit.* *p*

Solo *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

S *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

A *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

T *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

B1 *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne, nis - ke va - ne

B2 *mp* *p*
O nis - ke va - ne

molto rit.

2:45
2020

