

Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

If you would like to see this work in its entirety, please order online or call us at 800-647-2117.

## NOTES

The three *Songs of the Sages* are designed for maximal applicability and adaptability. Being based on timeless philosophies of both the *Bible* and the *Apocrypha*, they apply equally well to all religious or deistic/secular audiences. Prescribed abridgements carry the full meaning but omit exemplifying.

As few as two solo voices of any vocal range (where extremes of vocal tessitura occur, higher/lower alternatives, one octave apart, are provided) are sufficient for the presentation of these movements – individually or collectively, with epilogue, in long or short form. This same two-part version may also be sung by small choruses, hard-put to cover four vocal parts, or by groups less skillful in reading, wherein parts must be individually taught and memorized. Separate speech narrators are not required, as singing never coincides with speaking.

All of the above take into consideration varying rehearsal/preparation time availability.

*Hampson A. Sisler*

## TEXT

*Freely adapted from the Book of Ecclesiastes by H. A. Sisler*

Behold, the works of God,  
     Yet think not toward the knowing of them all,  
 For even the Sages, in consort,  
     Cannot know the whole of it.  
 Wise Elders, impart to us the wisdom of the Ages;  
     For I have said, I will be wise,  
     But it was far from me.  
 There is vanity upon the earth,  
     And vexation of spirit.

And just persons suffer at the hand of the wicked;  
     And again, wicked ones profit from the works of the upright;  
 And yet this too is also vanity and vexation of soul.  
 And so it is with all travail and every good work –  
     For which one is envied by one's neighbor.  
 Better a poor but wise peasant  
     Than a rich but foolish king,  
     with no one to reprove him;  
 For the subjects of such will be made poor  
     In both kind and in spirit.  
 Keep steadfastly when entering into the house of God.  
 Sacrifice not as do fools,  
     For they know not that they do evil,  
 And much good is destroyed by the act of one wrong-doer.  
 Say not, why were former days better than these?  
     For in time all is repeated.

Omitted from the abbreviated version

But the excellency of knowledge is that it gives life and  
 strength and fullness of purpose to all that attain it.  
 So, therefore, be ye strong,  
     Be still, and know thy God.

**Laurendale Associates**

15035 Wyandotte Street, Van Nuys, CA 91405-1746

tele: 818.994.6920 fax: 818.994.6958 e-mail: laurenda@wavenet.com

Dedicated to the Clergy of the First Congregational Church, Montclair, New Jersey

# Songs of the Sages #2 Ecclesiastes (Knowledge)

Two-part or four-part chorus with Organ accompaniment

Performance time: 5:30 long version; 3:00 short version

Hampson A. Sisler

With Fervor  $\text{♩} = 69$

Organ

*f* *man.* *mf* *ped.*

6

2-part W.  
M.

S/A  
4-part T/B

Organ

*f* *f* *f* *f*

Be - hold, the

Be - hold, the

3

Unauthorized duplication is prohibited

11

W. works of God, be - hold,

M. works of God, be - hold,

S/A works of God, be - hold,

T/B works of God, be - hold,

16

W. the works of God, *mf*

M. the works of God, *mf*

S/A the works of God, *mf*

T/B the works of God, *mf*

Yet think not toward the

Yet think not toward the

21

*mf*

W. For e-ven the Sag-es, in con-sort,

M. know-ing of them all,

S/A For e-ven the Sag-es, in con-sort,

T/B know-ing of them all,

25

*mp*

W. Can - not know the whole of it.

M. Can - not know the whole of it.

S/A Can - not know the whole of it.

T/B Can - not know the whole of it.

29 *mf*

Narr. Wise El-ders, im-part to us the wis-dom of Ag-es; For I have

34

Narr. said, I will be wise, But it was far from me.

41

W. *deciso mf*

M. *deciso mf*

S/A

T/B *deciso mf*

There is van-i-ty up -

There is van-i-ty up -

46 *p* *mf*

W. van - i - ty, van - - i - ty And vex -

M. on the earth, *mf*

S/A *p* *mf*

T/B *mf*

on the earth,

Long version: eliminate m. 53 & 53A, go directly to m. 53B  
 Short version: skip from m. 53 to m. 136

51 *p* 53 53A 53B *mp* 54

W. a - tion of spi - rit. And just per - sons

M. *p* *mp*

S/A *p* *mp*

T/B *p* *mp*

a - tion of spi - rit. And just per - sons