## SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

A General or All Saints' Anthem for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Arranged by HAL H. HOPSON

Words and Music by ROBERT LOWRY (1826-1899)



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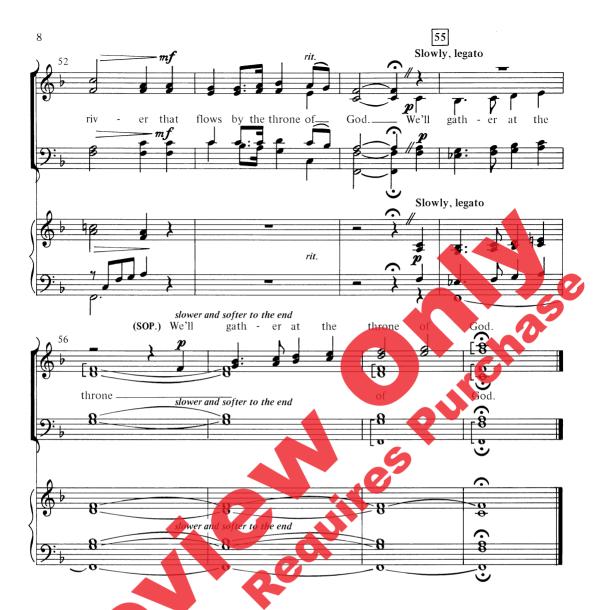












Shall We Gather at the River is a choral arrangement of one of the most popular 19th century gospel hymns. It is appropriate for All Saints' Day, funerals, memorial services, and more general occasions. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalms 24 and 34: 1-10 & 22, Matthew 5: 1-12, 1 John 3: 1-2, and Revelation 7: 9-17 and 22: 1. One basic homiletical theme is celebrating the lives of those who walk the many paths to God's heavenly kingdom.

In reheatsal, strive for a rather martial, triumphant sound within gently flowing four-measure phrases. Practice verses 1 and 3 (m. 4-19, 38-58) singing staccato "doo" until the rhythms are secure and the parts are perfectly aligned. Next, sing these verses legato on "noo" without sacrificing the energetic, martial feeling of the staccato. Add the text with great sensitivity to proper declamation. The first half of verse 2 (m. 20-29) should slightly contrast the other verses with a more flowing, though to less energetic, articulation.

Robert Lowry was a brilliant 19th century theologian, preacher, author, musician, and music editor. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he served Baptist churches in the northeast and taught at Buckerell University. His gospel hymns and texts appear in many hymnals.

Hal H. Hopson is Music Consultant at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas. He earned degrees from Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served on the church music faculties of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and Scarritt Graduate School in Nashville. Especially celebrated for his arrangements and editions of sacred masterworks, Hopson has over 1,000 publications to his credit.