

Performance notes.

Blue grass music is not often associated with choral singing. More typically, it is rendered with solo voice or a small ensemble. However, the characteristic harmonies are easily accessible in choral singing and, with some slight modifications in vocal style, a suitable sound can be achieved.

The vowels should be very bright and open, a bit nasal in quality, and the singing should be without vibrato. Many of the upward-moving intervals, as well as certain repeated notes, should be embellished with a scoop, or slight grace-note glissando from beneath. Take care not to over-do this as it is primarily a soloistic embellishment and could easily become overbearing in choral singing.

Almost any choral music is better when sung by memory and this is certainly true for music that comes from a strong, folk tradition.

If the piece is performed with traditional Blue Grass instruments, it is recommended that a bass not be used. A traditional, chord-driven pizzicato bass could be in conflict with the sung bass line, which was written to take the place of a plucked bass. Mandolin, violin and guitar will work nicely, following the chord charts on the last pages. If instruments are not used, the beats of rest in ms. 17-18 and 58-59 should not be observed since they were included to allow for instrumental interludes in changing tempo. Ms. 60-67 and 74-75 are to be sung *a capella* even if instruments are used.

Commissioned by Susan Gardner, Phillip Scott
and Chip and Darla Purchase

I Will Lift My Weary Eyes

To be sung in Blue Grass vocal style

K Lange

Begin in ms 9
if sung a capella

Sung freely, plaintively,
with fiddle drone
accompaniment

Solo

And I will lift _____ my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up _____ un - to the

5

5

hills, _____ and the help that I have need - ed _____ will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will lift my eyes un - to _____ the

9

Altos

9

Tenors

hills. And I will Hm lift _____ my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up _____ un - to the _____
I'll lift them up _____ un - to the _____

13

13

hills, _____ and the help that I have need - ed _____ will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will
hills, _____ and the help that I have need - ed _____ will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will

16 $\text{♩} = 90$

lift my eyes un - to the hills.
lift my eyes un - to the hills. And I will lift And I will lift my wear - y

lift my eyes un - to the hills.
lift my eyes un - to the hills. And I will lift And I will lift

20

my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up lift them up un - to the hills, and the
eyes, I'll lift them up un - to the hills, and the

my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up un - to the hills, and the

23

help that I have need - ed will sure - ly tum - ble down, un - to the hills.
help that I have need - ed will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will lift my eyes un - to the hills.

help that I have need - ed will sure - ly tum - ble down, un - to the hills.

27

Ask me what I'll do when the storm clouds o - pen up and the flood wat - ers co - ver the land,
Ask me what I'll do when the storm clouds o - pen up and the flood wat - ers co - ver the land,
Ask me what I'll do when the storm clouds o - pen up and the flood wat - ers co - ver the land,
Ask me what I'll do when the storm clouds o - pen up and the flood wat - ers co - ver the land.

Tenors (sing this section SSA if the tenors are uncomfortable with the range.)

31

Hm
ask me what I'll do in the time of tri - bu - la - tion, with pes - ti - lence on — ev - ry hand. I will

31
ev - ry hand.

35

lift — my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up — un - to — the hills, and the

35
And I will lift my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them up un - to the hills, and the

39

help that I have need - ed — will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will lift my eyes un - to — the hills.

39
help that I have needed will sure - ly tum - ble down, un - to the hills

43

Hm
Ask me what I'll do when the pow'rs of e - vil rise with a call to — the plea - sures of sin;

43
Hm

47

ask me what I'll do when the walls of my con-vic-tion start to weak-en and crum-ble in.

47

Weak - en, crum - ble in. I will

51

I will lift my wear-y eyes, I'll lift them up un-to the hills.

51

lift my wear-y eyes, I'll lift them up un-to the hills, and the

55

Hm un-to the hills.

55

help that I have need-ed will sure-ly tum-ble down, I will lift my eyes un-to the hills. *rit.*

59

Ask me what I'll do when the day-light starts to dim and the night sky lays low o'er my

59

63 *mf*

eyes. Ask me what I'll do when the music starts to fade in - to e - choes of sweet good -

63 *mf*

67 *accel.* *p* *cresc.*

byes. I will lift And I will lift my wear - y wear - y eyes, I'll lift them
my wear - y eyes, I'll lift them

67 *p* *cresc.*

And I will lift my wear - y eyes,

70 *rit.*

lift them up un - to the hills, and the help that I have need - ed will
lift up un - to the hills, and the help that I have need - ed will

70

I'll lift them up un - to the hills, and the help that I have need - ed will

73 *ff* *rit.*

sure - ly tum - ble down, I will lift my eyes un - to the hills.
sure - ly tum - ble down. I will lift my eyes un - to the hills.

73

sure - ly tum - ble down.

I Will Lift My Weary Eyes

KL

First time- solo, freely
Second time- choir freely

And I will lift _____ my wear-y__ eyes, I'll lift them up _____ un-to the

5 hills, _____ and the help that I have need - ed _____ will sure - ly tum - ble down, I will

8 lift my eyes un - to _____ the hills. And I will lift _____ my wear-y__ eyes, I'll lift them

12 up _____ un-to the hills, _____ and the help that I have need-ed will sure - ly tum-ble down, I will

16 lift my eyes un - to _____ the hills. Ask me what I'll do when the

19 storm clouds o - pen up and the flood wat - ers co - ver the land, ask me what I'll do in the

23 time of tri - bu - la - tion, with pes - ti - lence on ev - ry hand. I will lift _____ my wear-y

27 eyes, I'll lift them up _____ un-to the hills, _____ and the help that I have need - ed _____ will

31 G D/F# G C D G C

sure-ly tum-ble down, I will lift my eyes un-to the hills. Ask me what I'll do when the

35 G/B G C G/B Dsus D C

pow'rs of e-vil rise with a call to the plea-sures of sin; ask me what I'll do when the

39 G/B G D G G

walls of my con-vic-tion start to weak-en and crum-ble in. I will lift my wear-y

43 C/G G D/F# G C/G

eyes, I'll lift them up un-to the hills, and the help that I have need-ed will

47 G D/F# G G C D G

sure-ly tum-ble down, I will lift my eyes un-to the hills.

(Verse 4 is sung a capella)

53 accel. G

I will lift my wear-y

61 C/G G D/F# G C/G rit.

eyes, I'll lift them up un-to the hills, and the help that I have need-ed will

65 G D N.C. G

sure-ly tum-ble down, I will lift my eyes un-to the hills.