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The Unknown Grave

Item 4100

Words and Melody David Smith

For SATB Choir

Arr. David A. Zabriskie

Reflectively ♩=ca. 88

Piano introduction in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand features a melody of quarter notes and half notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with sustained notes and a low octave (8vb) indicated by a dashed line. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

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First line of lyrics: "There's an un - known grave in a lone - ly spot, but the". The vocal line begins at measure 8 with a *solo* marking and a piano (*p*) dynamic. A box containing the number 9 is placed above the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line.

Second line of lyrics: "form that it co - vers will ne'er be for - got; Where the heav'n trees". The vocal line begins at measure 13. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

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18

spread, and the tall locusts wave their snow white flow'rs o'er the

23

un - known grave, O - ver the un - known

27 *sopranos and altos* 29

grave. *mp* 2. And near by its side does the

31

wild rab - bit tread, and o - ver its bos - om the

35 37

white this-tles spread; as if placed there in kind - ness to

39

guard and save from in - trud - ing foot - steps the

43

un - known grave, guard - ing the un - known

43

47 *all voices unison* 49

grave. *mf* And there re - po - ses the

47

mf

51

pro - phet just; the Lord was his guide, and in

55 57

Him was his trust; he re - stored the gos - pel our

59

59 souls to save; but he now lies low in an

63

S. A.

un - known grave, low in an un - known

T. B.

63

67

69

grave. *p* God grant that we may

67

71

watch and pray, and keep our feet in the

75

77

nar - row way; Our spir - its and bod - ies in

79

pu - ri - ty save to see him a - rise from his

83

85 *freely*

un - known grave, God bless that un - known

87 *a tempo*

grave.

87

8^{vb}-----

8^{vb}-----

October 1998
Skokie, Illinois

David Hyrum Smith, the youngest child of the prophet Joseph Smith, was yet unborn at the the time of the martyrdom. The prophet’s enemies were anxious to steal his body, so the sad burial was conducted in secret by a few of Joseph’s friends. Eighteen years later, in 1867, David composed the words and melody of this song reflecting upon his father’s “unknown grave.” Several versions of the text exist with various publication dates. These words have been chosen as the most representative.

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