

## About the Work

One of the dozens of Utopian communities that took root in Revolutionary America, the Shakers were a doctrinally narrow offshoot of the Quakers. Their founder, Ann Lee, was born into a Quaker family in 1742, from whom she developed a personal theology that found few sympathizers, claiming holiness through celibacy and confession. Her enthusiasm for ecstatic dancing and shouting, the body's dramatic purgation of sin, led to her frequent imprisonment for blasphemy. In 1774 she emigrated to America from Manchester, after having seen a vision akin to a burning bush.

Mother Ann's rigorously asexual understanding of God meant that men and women were treated equally in their society, and since all sexual activity both inside and outside marriage was sinful, members agreed to a life of celibacy. The society grew by proselytization and by the receipt of orphans.

Shakers are remembered for their worship services of vigorous physicality (official portraits depict orderly square dances, but dispassionate contemporary descriptions are more chaotically Pentecostal) and for their simple craftsmanship, which is practical and timelessly beautiful. Much Shaker music has entered the American mainstream (*Simple Gifts/Lord of the Dance* being the most familiar) but much has remained undiscovered despite its appealing melodiousness and naive charm.

Of course the group has diminished greatly. There is today only one small, surviving community, in Sabbathday Lake, Maine, that is sustained primarily by tourism.

*The Valley of Delight* celebrates Ann Lee, her ecstatic vision and move to America (#1 *Journey*), her worship style and work ethic (#2 *Workdance*), and her decline and death (#3 *Death and Resurrection*). References to shaker music appear throughout.

**Full texts printed on page 63.**

## About the Composer

Paul Crabtree was born in England, slightly too late to be swept up in Beatlemania. Instead, his youth was drenched in Progressive Rock and Folk Rock, before he was introduced to orchestral music and opera by a patient music teacher. After musical studies at the University of Edinburgh and the Musikhochschule in Cologne, he emigrated to America, where he continues to write eclectic pieces that reflect his wide interests.

(Duration: Approx. 16:30)

# The Valley of Delight

## SATB 1. Journey

From writings by  
ANN LEE (1736-1784) and  
LYNN EMANUEL (b. 1949)

Music by  
PAUL CRABTREE (b. 1960)

Slow and innocent ( $\text{♩} = 50$ )

Soprano  
God's na-ture is dual, God's na-ture is dual,

Alto  
God's na-ture is dual, God's na-ture is dual,

Tenor  
God's na-ture is dual, God's na-ture is dual,

Bass  
God's na-ture is dual, God's na-ture is dual,

7

male and fe - male e - qual-ly.

male and fe - male e - qual-ly.

male and fe - male e - qual-ly.

male and fe - male e - qual-ly.

Text: "My Life" from *Noose and Hook* by Lynn Emanuel (b. 1949)  
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God's na - ture is dual, is dual.

God's na - ture is dual, is dual.

God's na - ture is dual, is dual.

God's na - ture is dual, is dual.

18 Fast and breathless ( $\text{♩} = 80$ )

a a a a a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a a

a a a a a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a I saw, a a

21

saw, a a a a a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a large

a a a I saw I saw a large tree. — a I saw, a a

24

tree, a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a large tree, a

a a a I saw a large tree. a tree. a a a a a I saw,

*p* *f*  
a a a a a I saw,

27

a I saw, a I saw, a a a a a I saw, a a a a

large tree, I saw a large tree.

a a a a a I saw, I saw a large tree.

*sim.* *p* *f*  
a a a a a I saw,

*mp* *mp*

30

a I saw, a I saw, a a a a a I saw, I

a I saw, a I saw, a I saw, a a a a a I saw,

a large tree, a large tree.

a large tree, a large tree.

*sim.* *p*