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the SSA version is dedicated to the Berks Classical Children's Chorus
in honor of the marriage of BCCC graduate Carolyn Richie to Bryan Tavares, August 6, 2005

I cannot dance, O Lord

for Soprano and Organ

Steven Sametz

"I cannot dance"

Mechtild of Magdeburg

Jane Hirshfield, tr.

$\text{♩} = 136$
f exuberantly

Soprano

4 I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less You lead me. —

7 If You wish me to leap joy-ful-ly, let me see You dance, Let me see You dance

10 joy-ful-ly, — Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance joy-ful-ly, —

14 **A** *f* Let me see You dance and sing, — let me see You dance and sing, Then I will *ff*

20 leap in - to Love and from Love in - to Know-ledge, I'll leap in - to Love, and from *mf*

26 Love in - to Know-ledge, from Know-ledge in - to the Har-vest, Know-ledge *f* in - to the Har-vest, That sweet-est Fruit be - yond hu - man sense. — *mp*,

"I cannot dance," by Mechtild of Magdeburg, translation © 1994 Jane Hirshfield,
from WOMEN IN PRAISE OF THE SACRED: 43 CENTURIES OF SPIRITUAL POETRY BY WOMEN
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C

43

mf

f

— let me see You dance and sing, — Then I will leap in - to

47

ff

Love and from Love in - to Know ledge, I'll leap in - to Love, and from Love in - to

53

mf

ff

Know - ledge in - to the Har - vest, Know - ledge in - to the

mf

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is written in treble and bass clefs. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and 5/8 throughout the piece. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). A common time signature 'C' is indicated at the top right. The lyrics are: 'let me see You dance and sing, — Then I will leap in - to Love and from Love in - to Know ledge, I'll leap in - to Love, and from Love in - to Know - ledge in - to the Har - vest, Know - ledge in - to the'.

69

un-less You lead me. Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance

This system contains measures 69, 70, and 71. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line has lyrics: "un-less You lead me. Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and moving lines, and a left-hand part with a steady bass line. There are dynamic markings like *v* and *f* throughout.

72

joy - ful-ly, — Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance — joy - ful-ly,

This system contains measures 72, 73, and 74. The key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line has lyrics: "joy - ful-ly, — Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance — joy - ful-ly,". The piano accompaniment continues with similar textures. Measure 74 ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. There are dynamic markings like *v* and *f*.

75

then I will leap in - to Love!

legato *f*

mp *f*

This system contains measures 75, 76, and 77. The key signature changes to two sharps (F#, C#). The vocal line has lyrics: "then I will leap in - to Love!". The piano accompaniment features a change in meter from 6/8 to 3/4. There are dynamic markings *mp* and *f*, and a *legato* marking over the vocal line. Measure 77 ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

106

I can-not dance, O Lord, - I can-not dance, O Lord,

109

Allargando

rallentando

fff

un-less You lead me, lead me, Lord!

Allargando

rallentando

fff

+32'

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