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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 SSA Chorus and Organ

Steven Sametz

"I cannot dance"  
Mechtild of Magdeburg  
Jane Hirshfield, tr.

$\text{♩} = 136$   
*unis.*  
*f exuberantly*

Sopranos

I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less You lead me. — If You wish me to leap joy-ful-ly, let me see You dance, Let me see You dance joy-ful-ly, — Let me see You dance, Let me see You dance joy-ful-ly, — Let me see You dance and sing, — 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, from Know-ledge in-to the Har-vest, Know-ledge in-to the Har-vest, That sweet-est Fruit be-yond hu-man sense. —

"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  
(HarperCollins, 1994).  
Used by permission of Jane Hirshfield.

42 *mf*

Let me see You dance and sing, — let me see You dance and sing, — Then

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

45 *f*

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

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

50 *ff* *mf*

leap in - to Love, and from Love in - to Know - ledge in - to the Har - vest,

leap in - to Love, and from Love in - to Know - ledge, in - to the Har - vest, *div. unis.*

D

66

*mf*

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

*mf*

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

*mf*

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

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

69

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

Lord, un - less You lead \_ me. Let me see You dance, Let me see You

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

79 *fp* *brief* **E**

There I will stay with You, \_\_\_\_\_

whirl ing, \_\_\_\_\_

There I will stay with You, whirl-ing, whirl-ing, whirl - ing,

(Ch.) Sw. *p*

83 *p* *mp*

whirl-ing, whirl-ing, whirl - ing, whirl-ing, whirl-ing, whirl - ing,

whirl - ing, whirl - ing, whirl-ing, whirl-ing, whirl-ing,

whirl - ing, whirl - ing, whirl-ing, whirl-ing, whirl-ing,

*mp*

106

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

109 **Allargando**

*rallentando* **ff**  
 un-less You lead me, lead me, Lord!  
 un-less You lead me, lead me, Lord!  
 un-less You lead me, lead me, Lord!  
**Allargando** *rallentando* **ff**

+32'