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Hallelujah: a sestina

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no. 9

Robert Francis Hallelujah: A Sestina Alan Stringer

The wind's word, the
Hebrew Hallelujah, I wonder that they never
gave it to a boy (Hal for short) boy with wind-wild hair.
It means Praise God, as well it should since praise is what
God is for. Why didn't they call my father Hallelujah
instead of Eben-ezer? Eben, of course, was

Note: Men sing unison until 4-part section at the end.
Women begin in unison but follow arrows for division into parts.

Christ-ened Eb-eN-e-zer, product of No-va Sco-tia

Handwritten musical notation for the first system, consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of notes and rests, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

8va (hal-le-lu-jah), *8va* Daniel, a country doc-tor, was his

Handwritten musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written above the treble staff. The notation includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *8va*.

8va fa-ther and my fa-ther was his tenth and fin- *8va* al

Handwritten musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written above the treble staff. The notation includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *8va*.

boy. A ba-by and last, he had a ba-by's praïse: red

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written above the treble staff. The notation includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *8va*.

pet-ti-coat, red cheeks, and crow- black hair. A boy

Handwritten musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written above the treble staff. The notation includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *8va*.

has lit-tle to say *8va* a-bout his hair and lit-tle a-bout a

Handwritten musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written above the treble staff. The notation includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *8va*. At the bottom right, there is a small note: "+8 - - - - -".

name like Eb-en-e-zer ex-cept that he can short-en

nei-ther. Praise God for that, for that shout Hal-le-lu-jah.

Shout Hal-le-lu-jah for every-thing a boy can be

that is not his fa-ther or grand-fa-ther

mf *A tempo*

But then be-fore you

Know it, he is a fa-ther too and pass-ing on his

+8 - - - - - !

brand of hair to one more per-fect-ly de-fense-less

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

boy, Dubb bing him John or James or Eb-en-e-zer, but

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 nev-er as far as I know, Hal-le-lu-jah, as if God

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 did-n't need quite that much praise. But what I'm

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

com-ing to — could I ev-er praise my fa-ther half e-

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

nough for be-ing a fa-ther who let me be my-

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

+8 -----

self, Sing hal - le - lu - jah; Preach - er he was with a

F MF

+8 pro - phet's head of hair and what but a pro - phet's

slowing slightly

name was Eb - e - ne - zer, how - ev - er lit - tle I guessed it

din e rit.

as a boy? Out - land - ish names, of course, are

F A tempo

never a boy's choice. And it takes time to learn to praise.

+8 Stone of Help is the meaning of Eb - e - ne - zer

stone of Help - what fit-ter name for my fa-ther? Al-

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

ways the Stone of Help how-ev-er his hair might

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

grad-u-ate from black to Hal-le-lu-jah.

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

In 4 parts - much slower

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

dra-ma of boy and fa-ther. Praise from a gray-head now

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.

with thin-ning hair. Sing Eb-en-e-zer, Rob-ert, sing Hal-le-lu-jah!

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with notes and chords.