Brilee Music

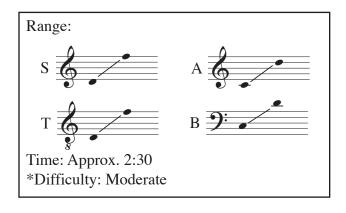
A PSALM OF LIFE

SATB, accompanied

Based on
A PSALM OF LIFE
(What the Heart of the Young Man
Said to the Psalmist)
Written by American Poet
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Words and Music by LYNN SHAW BAILEY





Performance Notes

The great American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) coined the phrase "footprints on the sands of time" in "A Psalm of Life" (1839). This poem challenges the readers to live determined lives of dignity, action and greatness. Longfellow advises us to live in such a way that others see the footprints we leave behind and are encouraged to go forward. He admonishes us to "act in the living Present" and "be a hero in the strife!"

The poem is subtitled *What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist*. Published when Longfellow was 32, it was included in his first collection of poems entitled *Voices of the Night*. I was particularly drawn to these words:

"Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time."

Did you notice that we can choose to take responsibility for making our own lives sublime. "Sublime" may be a word you don't hear very often, but it is a wonderful adjective describing someone or something that is noble, majestic and not to be excelled. It is someone of grand and lofty ideas, expression or manner...someone or something that inspires awe due to some elevated quality such as beauty, grandeur or excellence.

Great people leave their mark on others. Who do you consider great? First, consider this word of caution. Just because someone is famous or popular doesn't mean they are great. No matter your age or place in life, you can be great by doing your best, overcoming obstacles and making a real difference in the life of someone else. That's what true greatness is really all about.

I encourage you to read the entire poem and discuss it with your teacher, family and friends. Learn more about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his writings. Then go out and be great! Inspire others and be a hero in strife. Walk on and leave YOUR footprints on the sands of time...

Soli Deo Gloria... Lynn Shaw Bailey (2010) In honor and memory of Brian R. Busch (1940-2007), founder of BriLee Music, who made his life sublime.

A PSALM OF LIFE

(Walk On)

SATB, accompanied

Based on A PSALM OF LIFE Written by HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW Words and Music by LYNN SHAW BAILEY (ASCAP)

















