

The Land of Peace and Bliss: A Musical Mandala

For Mezzo-Soprano
with Cello and Piano Accompaniment

Music by Richard St. Clair
(2005-2009)

Poem by Vasubandhu (4th cent. India)
Translated by Hisao Inagaki

Verses from Vasubandhu's Discourse on the Pure Land (Jodoron)

Translated from the Chinese by Hisao Inagaki (Used with Permission)

O World-Honored One, with singleness of mind, I
Take refuge in the Tathagata of Unhindered Light
Shining throughout the Ten Directions,
And aspire to be born in the Land of Peace and Bliss. (1)

Depending on the sutras' exposition
Of the manifestation of true merit,
I compose verses of aspiration in condensed form,
Thereby conforming to the Buddha Dharma. (2)

When I contemplate the nature of that Land,
I find that it surpasses all states of existence in the three worlds.
It is ultimately like space,
Vast and without bounds. (3)

Out of the Great Compassion inherent in the Right Path
And from the root of supramundane good has it arisen.
It is completely radiant with pure light,
Like a mirror or the sun or moon. (4)

It is composed of rare jewels,
And endowed with exquisite adornments.
Its pure and blazing light is brilliant
And serene, illuminating the whole world. (5)

Jewelled ornaments, pliant and soft like grasses,
Bend to right and left. They produce delightful
Sensations in one who touches them, surpassing
The sensations produced when kacilindika grass is stroked. (6)

A myriad varieties of jewelled blossoms
Are scattered profusely among the ponds, streams, and springs.
When a soft breeze moves the flowers and leaves,
Reflections of light interweave and shimmer in all directions. (7)

The palaces and various towers
Command unobstructed views in the ten directions.
There are trees displaying many colors,
All surrounded by railings of precious gems. (8)

Nets strung with innumerable jewels
Hang across the sky.
When bells of various kinds ring out,
They proclaim the message of the excellent Dharma. (9)

Magnificent flowers and robes rain down,
And numerous varieties of incense pervade everywhere.
The Buddha's wisdom is pure and brilliant like the sun;
It dispels the darkness of the world's ignorance. (10)

The sacred name enlightens people far and wide;
It is subtle and wonderful and is heard everywhere in the ten
directions.
[The Land] is firmly upheld by Amida,
The Enlightened One, the Dharma-King. (11)

The hosts of sages in the likeness of pure flowers surrounding the
Tathagata
Are born there, transformed from within the Flower of
Enlightenment.
They enjoy the taste of the Buddhist Dharma,
Taking meditation and Samadhi as food. (12)

Forever free from bodily and mental afflictions,
They always enjoy pleasure, without interruption.
In this realm of the Goodness of the Mahayana
[All beings are] equal, and not [even] the names of unworthy beings
are found there. (13)

Women, deformed and deficient persons and
[Those having] the seeds of the Two Vehicles are not born here.
Whatever aspirations sentient beings may have,
They will all be fulfilled. (14)

For this reason I aspire to be born
In Amida Buddha's Land.
[He is seated] on the pedestal of an excellent, pure lotus flower
Adorned with innumerable great treasures. (15)

His physical marks of excellence shine for one fathom;
His form is incomparably superior to that of any other beings.
The wondrous voice of the Tathagata like that of Brahma
Is heard throughout the ten directions. (16)

Like earth, water, fire, wind
And space, [he] has no discriminative thoughts.
Heavenly and human beings, unshakable [in their spiritual
attainments],
Are born out of the ocean of pure wisdom. (17)

Like Sumeru, the king of mountains,
[Amida is] supreme, wonderful and unequaled.
Heavenly beings and valiant men
Worship, circumambulate round him and look up to him adoringly. (18)

When I observe the Buddha's Primal Vow-Power,
I find that those who meet with it do not pass by in vain.
They are enabled to gain quickly
The great sea of the treasure of merit. (19)

The Land of Peace and Bliss is pure and serene;
[The Buddha] always turns the undefiled wheel [of the Dharma].
Transformed Buddhas and Bodhisattvas [illumine the whole world]
like the sun,
[While remaining motionless] like Mt. Sumeru. (20)

The pure, glorious light [of the Bodhisattvas],
In a flash of thought and simultaneously,
Illumines each and every Buddha's assembly
And gives benefit to multitudes of beings. (21)

They manifest heavenly musical instruments, flowers, robes,
Fine incense, and so forth, with which they worship the Buddhas;
They praise and extol the merits of the Buddhas
Without discriminative thoughts. (22)

If there is any world in the universe
Without the treasure of merit of the Buddha Dharma,
I resolve to be born there
And to preach the Dharma like a Buddha. (23)

I have written this discourse and composed verses
With the wish to see Amida Buddha
And, together with all sentient beings,
Be born in the Land of Peace and Bliss. (24)

The Land of Peace and Bliss

Dur: 20:00

A Musical Mandala for Mezzo-Soprano, Cello, and Piano

Moderato ($\text{J} = 54$)

Richard St. Clair

Mezzo-Soprano

Musical score for Mezzo-Soprano, Solo Cello, and Piano. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system starts with a piano dynamic (mp) and lyrics "O World - Hon-ored One, with sin - gle-ness of mind," followed by a piano dynamic (mf). The second system continues with piano dynamics (mp) and (mf). The third system starts with a piano dynamic (mf). The fourth system ends with a piano dynamic (mf).

Solo Cello

Piano

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

The Land of Peace and Bliss

M-S 16
shin - ing through - out the ten - di - rec - tions, and as -

S.Vlc. 16

Pno. 16

M-S 21
pire _____ to be born in the land____ of peace _____ and bliss.

S.Vlc. 21

Pno. 21

M-S rit.
De - pen - ding on the sut - ra's ex - pos - i - tion of the

S.Vlc. rit.
pizz.

Pno. 26 rit.

M-S 32

man - i-fes - ta - tion of true mer - it I com - pose ver - es of as - pir - a - tion in con

S.Vlc. 32

Pno. 32

M-S 36

densed form, there-by con-form-ing to the Bud - dha Dhar ma.

S.Vlc. 36

Pno. 36

M-S 41

When I con - tem - plate the na - ture

S.Vlc. 41

Pno. 41

The Land of Peace and Bliss

M-S 46

S.Vlc. 46

Pno. 46

M-S 50

S.Vlc. 50

Pno. 50

M-S 53

Con moto $\text{♩} = 58$

S.Vlc. 53

Pno. 53

The Land of Peace and Bliss

5

M-S 57

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 60

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 64

S.Vlc.

Pno.

The Land of Peace and Bliss

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

69

69

69

72

72

72

75

75

75

like a mir -

ror or the sun or moon.

(use r.h. - l.h.)

p.

f.

8va-

8va-

*

M-S *mp misterioso*

81 It is com - posed of rare jew - els and en - dowed with ex - qui - site a -

S.Vlc. pizz. arco

81 Pno. { *p*

M-S 85 dorm - - - - - ments. Its pure and

S.Vlc.

85 Pno. {

M-S 87 blaz - ing light is bril - liant and ser -

S.Vlc.

87 Pno. {

The Land of Peace and Bliss

M-S 89
 ene, il - lu - mmi - na-ting the whole world. _____

S.Vlc. 89

Pno. 89

M-S 93 jew - elled or - na-ments pli - ant and soft like gras - ses bend to right and left, right and left.

S.Vlc. 93

Pno. 93

M-S 98 They pro-duce de - light - ful sen-sa - tions de - light - ful sen - sa - tions

S.Vlc. 98

Pno. 98

M-S 101

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 104

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

Energico, con spirito ♩ = 62

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

The musical score consists of four staves: M-S (Mezzo-Soprano), S.Vlc. (String Bass), Pno. (Piano), and another M-S staff. The score is divided into sections by measure numbers 101, 104, and 107. Measure 101 shows the M-S part singing lyrics, while the S.Vlc. and Pno. provide harmonic support. Measure 104 continues the vocal line. Measure 107 introduces a dynamic change and a tempo marking of 'Energico, con spirito' with a tempo of ♩ = 62. The piano part features sixteenth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The vocal parts also show rhythmic complexity, including eighth-note and sixteenth-note patterns.

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

II2

A my-ri-ad var - i - e - ties of jew - elled blos-soms are scattered pro-

II2

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

II2

fuse - ly a - mong the ponds, _____ streams and springs.

II6

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

II6

When a soft _____ breeze moves the flow - ers and leaves

II9

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

II9

arco

8vb-----

M-S 123

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 127

S.Vlc.

Pno.

Sostenuto ♩ = 68

M-S 135

S.Vlc.

Pno.

140

M-S The pal - a - ces and var - ious tow - ers com - mand ____

S.Vlc. 3 3 3 3

Pno. 3 3 3 3

142

M-S un - ob - struc - ted views in the ten di - rec - tions.

S.Vlc. 3 3 3 3

Pno. 3 3 3 3

144

M-S - There are trees dis - play - ing man - y col - ors,

S.Vlc. 3 3 3 3

Pno. 3 3 3 3

M-S 146

S.Vlc.

Pno.

all sur - roun - ded by rail - ings _____ of pre - cious gems.

M-S rit.

S.Vlc.

Pno.

Allegretto $\text{♩} = 120$

pizz.

rit.

rit.

M-S 153

S.Vlc.

Pno.

Nets strung with in - nu - mera-ble jew - els hang — a -

153

8va----- 8va----- 8va----- 8va----- 8va----- 8va----- 8va-----

M-S 160

S.Vlc.

Pno.

cross the sky. When bells of var - ious kinds ring out, they pro - claim the

160

160 (use r.h. - l.h.)

Con moto ♩ = 100

M-S 168

S.Vlc.

Pno.

mes - sage of the ex - cel-lent Dhar - ma. Mag - nni-fi-cent flow-ers and robes rain

168

M-S 174

S.Vlc.

Pno.

down, rain down, rain down, and

174 arco

M-S 178

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 182

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 186

S.Vlc.

Pno.

nu - merous va - ri - e-ties of in - cense per-vade ev - ery - where. The Bud - dha's

wis - dom is pure___ and bril - liant; like___ the sun it dis-pels the dark - ness of___ the

world's___ ig - nor-ance.

rit.

rit.

8va

8vb

Poco andante $\text{♩} = 80$

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

191 The sac - red name _____ en - light - ens

191

191 *mp*

195 M-S people far and wide. It is sub - tle and won - der-ful and is heard ev-ery-

S.Vlc.

195 8va-----

195 Pno.

199 M-S where in the ten _____ di - rec - tions. _____

S.Vlc. (8va)-

199 Pno.

M-S 203

The land ___ is firm - ly up - held by A - mi - da the en - light - ened one, the

S.Vlc. 203

Pno. 203

M-S 207

Dhar - ma King, the Dhar - ma King, the Dhar - ma King.

S.Vlc. 207

Pno. 207

M-S 212 **Moderato** $\text{♩} = 48$

The hosts of sa - ges in the like ness of pure flow - ers sur-

S.Vlc. 212

Pno. 212

M-S 216

S.Vlc. 216

Pno. 216

M-S 219

S.Vlc. 219

Pno. 219

M-S 223

S.Vlc. 223

Pno. 223

M-S 227

food,

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 231

for - ev - er free from

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 234

bod - i - ly and men - tal af - lic - tions.

S.Vlc.

Pno.

237

M-S

237

S.Vlc.

237

Pno.

242

M-S

They al - ways en - joy _____ plea - sure with - out _____ in - ter - rup - tion. In this

242

S.Vlc.

242

Pno.

246

M-S

realm of the good - ness of _____ the Ma - ha - ya - na

246

S.Vlc.

(8va)-

246

Pno.

M-S 250

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 255

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 261

S.Vlc.

Pno.

all be-ings are e-qual and not e-ven the names of un-wor-thy

be-ings are found there What ev-er as - pir-a - tions sen-ti-ent be-ings may have they will

all be ful - filled.

Reo.

Moderato ♩ = 92

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

268 268 268

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

272 272 272

M-S S.Vlc. Pno.

275 275 275

Measures 268-271:

M-S: Rest (measures 268-271)

S.Vlc.: Rest (measures 268-271)

Pno.: Rest (measure 268); Measure 271 starts with a sustained note followed by eighth-note chords.

Measures 272-275:

M-S: Measures 272-275 (lyrics: "He is seat-ed on the", "ped-es-tal of an ex-cel-lent", "pure", "lo-tus flow-", "er", "a-dorned-")

S.Vlc.: Measures 272-275 (lyrics: "He is seat-ed on the", "ped-es-tal of an ex-cel-lent", "pure", "lo-tus flow-", "er", "a-dorned-")

Pno.: Measures 272-275 (lyrics: "He is seat-ed on the", "ped-es-tal of an ex-cel-lent", "pure", "lo-tus flow-", "er", "a-dorned-")

M-S 278

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 281

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 284

S.Vlc.

Pno.

287

M-S tha - ga - ta like that of Brah - ma is heard through - out the ten di -

S.Vlc.

287

Pno.

287

M-S rec - tions. Like earth, like wa - ter,

S.Vlc.

289

Pno.

289

M-S like fire, like wind and space He has no dis-crim - i -

S.Vlc.

293

Pno.

293

Use open strings

M-S 296

na - tive thought, he has no dis - crim - i - na - tive thoughts. Hea - - ven - ly and

S.Vlc. 296

Pno. 296

M-S 299

hu - man be - ings, un - shake-a - ble in their spir - i - tu - al at-

S.Vlc. 299

Pno. 299

M-S 302

tain - - - - - ments are

S.Vlc. 302

Pno. 302

M-S 305 born out of the o - cean of pure wis - dom.

S.Vlc. 305

Pno. 305 *Red.* 8^{vb-1}

M-S 309 **Moderato e sostenuto** $\text{♩} = 80$

S.Vlc. 309

Pno. 309 *

M-S 313

S.Vlc. 313 Like Su - mer - u,

Pno. 313

M-S 317

S.Vlc. 317

Pno.

M-S 321

S.Vlc. 321

Pno.

M-S 325

S.Vlc. 325

Pno. 325

bring out

Rwd.

Moderato $\text{♩} = 92$

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

S.Vlc.

Pno.

When I ob-

M-S 351

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 357

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 362

S.Vlc.

Pno.

368

M-S

mer - it.

368

S.Vlc.

368

Pno.

374

M-S

rit. - - - -

374

S.Vlc.

374

Pno.

379

M-S

The Land of Peace and Bliss is pure and ser-ene. The Bud - dha al - ways turns the

379

S.Vlc.

379

Pno.

M-S 382

wheel of the Dhar - ma. Trans - formed Bud - dhas and Bod - hi-satt - vas il -

S.Vlc. 382

Pno. 382

M-S 386

lu - mine the whole world like the sun, while re-main - ing

S.Vlc. 386

Pno. 386

M-S 390

mo - tion-less like Mount Su - me - ru. rit.

S.Vlc. 390

Pno. 390

Sostenuto ma brillante ♩ = 76

395 M-S

395 S.Vlc.

Pno.

398 M-S

398 S.Vlc.

Pno.

401 M-S

401 S.Vlc.

Pno.

The pure gold-en light of the bodhi-sattvas

in a flash of thought and si-mul-tan-eous-ly il-

M-S 403

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 405

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 409

S.Vlc.

Pno.

The Land of Peace and Bliss

lu - mines each and ev - er - y Bud - dha's as - sem - bly

6 6

(use r.h. - l.h.) 6

Rit.

— and gives ben - e-fit to mul - ti-tudes of be-ings.

rit.

Sostenuto, grande $\text{d} = 60$

mf

They man - i-fest hea - ven-ly mus - i-cal in - stru-ments, flow - ers, robes,

rit.

f mp

413

M-S

fine _____ incense, and so forth, with which they wor - ship the Bud-dhas; they

413

S.Vlc.

413

Pno.

417 *rit.*

M-S

praise and ex-tol the mer - its of _____ the Bud - das with - out dis-cri-mi-na-tive thoughts.

417 *rit.*

S.Vlc.

417

Pno.

422 Lento $\text{♩} = 72$

M-S

If there is an - y

422

S.Vlc.

422

Pno.

M-S 426

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S 430

S.Vlc. pizz.

Pno.

M-S 434

S.Vlc.

Pno.

M-S

437

Dhar - ma like _____ a Bud - dha.

S.Vlc.

Pno.

437

440

M-S

I have writ - ten this dis - course and com - posed _____

S.Vlc.

440

Pno.

440

M-S

ver - ses with the wish _____ to see A - mi - -

S.Vlc.

Pno.

443

443

8vb - - - - -

M-S 446

S.Vlc.

Pno. *ff*

(*8va*) *Reed.*

f

** Reed.*

M-S 449

S.Vlc.

(*8va*)

Pno. *mp*

M-S 452

S.Vlc.

Pno. 3 3 3 3

M-S 455 *rit.*

S.Vlc. 455 *rit.*

Pno. 455 *rit.* *8va* *rit.* *8va* *Rit.*

M-S 458 ***pp***

S.Vlc. 458 ***pp***

Pno. 458 ***pp*** *(8va)* *****