

Duration: 5:30

The Song of Queen Vaidehi

a Buddhist Motet for Women's Chorus, SSAA

from The Meditation Sutra
of Shakyamuni Buddha

Richard St. Clair

1990/2014

Stately, but with movement ($\text{♩} = 74$)

Score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, and Alto 2. The music is in 4/4 time, marked "Stately, but with movement ($\text{♩} = 74$)". The lyrics are:

World Hon - ored One! in for - mer times you have sent An - an - da to
me for en - qui - ry and con - so - la - tion. I am now in
sor - row and grief. You, World - Hon - ored One are ma - jes - tic and ex - al -

6 World Hon - ored One! in for - mer times you have sent An -

9 an - da to me for en - qui - ry and con - so - la - tion. I am now in

now, now in sor - row, You, World - Hon - ored One are ma -

now, now in sor - row, You, World - Hon - ored One are ma -

sor - row. You, World - Hon - ored One are ma - jes - tic and ex -

12

S. 1 ted. In no way shall I be, shall I

S. 2 jes tic. In no way shall I be, shall I

A. 1 jes - tic. In no way shall I be,

A. 2 al - ted. In no way shall I be,

15

S. 1 be a - ble to see thee. Will thou, I pray you, com -

S. 2 be a - ble to see thee. Will thou, I pray you com -

A. 1 shall I be a - ble to see thee. Will thou, I

A. 2 shall I be a - ble to see thee. Will thou, I

18

S. 1 mand your dis - ci - ples to come and have an in - ter - view with me?

S. 2 mand your dis - ci - ples to come and have an in - ter - view with me?

A. 1 pray, com - mand your dis - ci - ples to have an in - ter - view with me?

A. 2 pray com - mand your dis - ci - ples to have an in - ter - view with me?

22

S. 1

S. 2 *mf*
My on - ly pray - er is this:

A. 1

A. 2 *mf*
My on - ly pray - er is this:

26

S. 1 *ff* World - Hon - ored One, *mf* may you preach to me in de -

S. 2 *ff* World - Hon - ored One, *mf* may you preach to me in de -

A. 1 *ff* World - Hon - ored One, *mf* may you preach to me in de -

A. 2 *ff* World - Hon - ored One, *mf* may you preach to me

31

S. 1 tail of all the pla - ces where there is no

S. 2 tail of all the pla - ces where there is no

A. 1 tail of all the pla - ces where there

A. 2 of all the pla - ces where there

36

gradually diminishing

S. 1
sor - row or trou - ble and where I ought to go to be
gradually diminishing

S. 2
sor - row or trou - ble and where I ought to go to be
gradually diminishing

A. 1
is no sor - row or trou - ble and where I ought to
gradually diminishing

A. 2
is no sor - row of trou - ble and where I ought to

41

S. 1
born a - new. *p*

S. 2
born a new. *p*

A. 1
go to be born a - new. *p* I am not sat - is - *mp simply*

A. 2
go to be born a new. *p* I am *mp simply*

46

S. 1

S. 2

A. 1
fied — with this world of de - prav - - i -

A. 2
not — sat - is fied with this world of de - prav - i -

51 *mp*

S. 1 with Jam-bud - vi - pa which is full of hells, full — of hun - gry spir - its

S. 2 *mp* with Jam - bud - vi - pa, full of hells, full of hun - gry spir - its and

A. 1 ties,

A. 2

ties,

55 *f*

S. 1 and of the brute — crea - tures. In this world of de - prav - i -

S. 2 brute crea - tures. In this world of de - prav - i -

A. 1 *f* there are

A. 2 *f* there are

59 *ff*

S. 1 ties, May I not, I pray, — hear the voice of the

S. 2 ties, *ff* May I not, I pray, — hear the voice of the

A. 1 *ff* man - y as - sem - bles of the wick - ed. May I not, I pray, — hear the voice of the

A. 2 *ff* man - y as - sem - bles of the wick - ed. May I not, I pray, — hear the voice of the

63

mf

S.1 wick - ed in the fu - ture and may I not see an - y wick - ed

S.2 wick - ed in the fu - ture and may I not see an - y wick - ed

A.1 wick - ed in the fu - ture and may I not see an - y wick - ed

A.2 wick - ed in the fu - ture and may I not see an - y wick - ed

67

p

S.1 per - son. Al - though all Bud - dha coun - tries are

S.2 per - son. World - Hon - ored One, al - though all Bud - dha coun - tries are

A.1 per - son. World - Hon - ored One, al - though all Bud - dha coun - tries are

A.2 per - son. Al - though all Bud - dha coun - tries are

71

S.1 ra - diant with light I wish my - self to be born in the realm of Bud -

S.2 ra - di - ant with light, I wish my - self to be born in the realm of

A.1 ra - di - ant with light, I wish my self to be born in the realm of

A.2 ra - di - ant with light, I wish to be born in the realm of

75 *ff*

S.1 dha A - mi - ta - yus, in the world of high - est hap - pi-mess.

S.2 Bud - dha A-mi ta - yus, in the world of high - est

A.1 Bud - dha A-mi ta - yus, in the world of high - est

A.2 Bud - dha A - mi ta - yus, in the world of high - est hap - pi - ness,

79 *mp* *f*

S.1 Su - kha - va - ti. World-hon - ored One, nev - er

S.2 hap - pi-ness, Su - kha - va - ti. World-Hon - ored

A.1 hap - pi-ness, Su - kha - va - ti.

A.2 Su - kha - va - ti.

83

S.1 have I seen, seen such a won - der!

S.2 One, nev - er have I seen, seen such a won - der!

A.1 World-Hon-ored One, nev - er have I seen,

A.2 * World-Hon-ored One, nev - er have I seen

* col 8va bassa if some Alto 2's can sing low C

87

S. 1
Peo - ple such as I can

S. 2
Peo - ple such as I can

A. 1
such a won - der, such a won - der! Peo - ple such as I

A. 2
such a won - der, such a won - der! Peo - ple such as

90

S. 1
now — see that land — by the pow - er — of — the Ex - al - ted

S. 2
now — see that land — by the pow - er — of — the Ex - al - ted —

A. 1
— can now — see that land by the pow - er — of — the Ex - al - ted

A. 2
I can now — see that land by the pow - er — of — the Ex - al - ted —

93 *mf cresc.* *f*

S. 1 One! To re - mem - ber these words is to re - mem - ber the Name

S. 2 *mf cresc.* *f*
One! To re - mem - ber these words is to re - mem - ber the Name

A. 1 *mf cresc.* *f*
One! To re - mem - ber these words is to re - mem - ber the Name

A. 2 *mf cresc.* *f*
One! To re - mem - ber these words is to re - mem - ber the Name

96 *mf dimin.* *rit. mp*

S. 1 of Bud - - - dha A - mi - ta - yus.

S. 2 *mf dimin.* *mp*
Na - mu A - mi - da - Bu - tsu A - mi - ta - yus.

A. 1 *mf dimin.* *mp*
Na - mu A - mi - da - Bu - tsu A - mi - ta - yus.

A. 2 *mf dimin.* *mp*
of Bud - - - dha A - mi - ta - yus.

World-Honored One! In former times you have constantly sent Ananda to me for enquiry and consolation. I am now in sorrow and grief. You, World-Honored One, are majestic and exalted; in no way shall I be able to see thee. Will thou, I pray you, command your disciples to come and have an interview with me?

My only prayer is this: World-Honored One, may you preach to me in detail of all the places where there is no sorrow or trouble, and where I ought to go to be born anew. I am not satisfied with this world of depravities, with Jambudvipa, which is full of hells, full of hungry spirits, and of the brute creatures. In this world of depravities, there are many assemblies of the wicked. May I not hear, I pray, the voice of the wicked in the future and may I not see any wicked person.

World-Honored One, although all other Buddha countries are pure and radiant with light, I should, nevertheless, wish myself to be born in the realm of Buddha Amitayus, in the world of Highest Happiness, Sukhavati.

World-Honored One, Never have I seen such a wonder! People such as I can now see that land by the power of the Exalted One! To remember these words is to remember the name of Buddha Amitayus. Namu Amida Butsu.