



The Shelter of Shalom

Craig Courtney
lyrics by Pamela Stewart

LYRICIST'S NOTE:

The concept for this text comes from the Jewish feast of Sukkot (shelters or booths), during which the Jews build and dwell in simple shelters for seven days. These shelters must have at least two walls and one partial wall. This fragile construction recalls the wilderness journey when the Israelites lived in tents, exposed to the elements, protected only by the sheltering presence of the Lord (Leviticus 23:40-43).

The roofs must be made of branches, providing some relief from the sun but open enough to see the stars at night. The view of the night sky is a reminder that, even in God's majesty, He is mindful of His people (Psalm 8:4-5). Consider that the sky might also be a reminder of our eternal dwelling place once this life has ended.

The word "shalom" can be used in greeting as both hello and farewell; it means "peace" but also "wholeness" or "completeness." It is one of the many names for God, Jehovah Shalom (Judges 6:24).

The prayer recited on the Jewish Sabbath also contains a reference to the shelter of shalom: "Spread over us your canopy of peace." That phrase, along with Isaiah 40:22 and Psalm 104:2, inspired the opening lines of the text.

The closing line refers to II Corinthians 5:1. On the day when we bid farewell to the temporary shelter of the earthly body, we will greet the eternal shelter of heaven, and stand in wholeness before God, our Shalom.

Shalom.

— Pamela Stewart

To honor Gary (1946-2013) and Mary Lou Anderson, for a lifetime of singing, preaching, teaching and making music that inspires and uplifts; sharing a love that knows no bounds; and living out "shalom" in every facet of their lives - reflecting the peace of Christ to all who are blessed to know them.

The Shelter of Shalom

For SATB Choir and Piano

Pamela Stewart (BMI)

CRAIG COURTNEY
(ASCAP)

With awe ♩ = 60

mp

1 2 3

Musical notation for the piano introduction, measures 1-3. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are indicated below the staff.

SA unis. *mp*

You wrap your-self in won-drous light and let it shine on me. _____

4 5 6

Musical notation for the first line of lyrics, measures 4-6. The vocal line is for Soprano and Alto (SA unis.) and is marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment is also marked *mp*. Measure numbers 4, 5, and 6 are indicated below the piano staff.

_____ You spread the heav-ens like a tent and cov-er me with peace. _____

7 8 9

Musical notation for the second line of lyrics, measures 7-9. The vocal line continues from the previous system. Measure numbers 7, 8, and 9 are indicated below the piano staff.

Part-dominant rehearsal tracks (BP2374RTDL) available only at beckenhorstpress.com.

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You make a shel-ter of Your-self, my dwell-ing place, my home. A

ref-uge in the wil-der-ness, a shel-ter of sha-lom. Sopranos *poco rit.* **mp**
 Lead me Tenors **mp**

poco rit.

home, lead me home, lead me home at last to

a tempo espressivo

a tempo espressivo

cresc.
 Lead me home, lead me home, lead me
 You. +Altos O lead me home, O lead me home, lead me
cresc. +Basses

Lead me home, lead me home, lead me

home at last to You.

The

a tempo

sor-rows of this life are great and, God, my heart so small. The

unis. mp

Yet
frag - ile peace with - in the world can - not with - stand them all.

p

26 27

e - ven in the shad - ow - lands, You will not let me go. My

mp

28 29

ha - ven and my hid - ing place, the shel - ter of sha - lom.

30 31

poco rit.
mf

a tempo
espressivo

Lead me home, lead me home, lead me

mf

poco rit.

a tempo

mf *espressivo*

32 33 34

home at last to You. O lead me home, O

Lead me home, lead me

35 36 37

home,

rit.

a tempo

lead me home, lead me home at last to You.

8

home,

rit.

a tempo

38 39 40

unis. mp

When

stars a - bove my head at night are whis - per - ing "Sha - lom," I

mp

poco rit.

do not fear my bro - ken - ness; I know I shall be whole. And

unis. mp

poco rit.

a tempo
cresc. poco a poco

when my earth - ly tent comes down, this house of flesh and bone,

cresc. poco a poco

a tempo

cresc. poco a poco

48 49

lead me home to peace at last, Your shel - ter of sha - lom.

50 51

poco rit. *a tempo*

Lead me home, lead me home, lead me

f

poco rit. *a tempo*

52 53 54

home at last to You. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* Lead me home, lead me

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

55 56 57

home, lead me home at last to You. *poco rit.* *ff* Lead me

ff

poco rit.

58 59 60

a tempo

home, lead me home, lead me home at last to

a tempo *ff*

61 62 63

dim. poco a poco

You. *dim. poco a poco* Lead me home, lead me home,

dim. poco a poco

64 65 66

rit.

unis. mp

a tempo

lead me home at last to You. Sha -

unis. mp

rit.

mp

a tempo

espressivo

67 68 69 70

rit.

lom, sha - lom, my Sha - lom.

rit.

71 72 73

Preview copy - Not for performance



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