

HSP-113-01A The Flute of the Infinite / Dalton / SATB choir with optional flute, hand drum \$2.15

The Flute of the Infinite

Text: Kabîr

for SATB choir with optional flute and hand drum

Catherine Dalton



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The Flute of the Infinite

The flute of the Infinite is played without ceasing and its sound is love:

When love renounces all limits, it reaches truth.

How widely the fragrance spreads! It has no end, nothing stands in its way.

The form of this melody is bright like a million suns: incomparably sounds the vina, the vina of the notes of truth.

From *Songs of Kabîr*

Translated by Rabindranath Tagore

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Catherine Dalton specializes in vocal compositions that are inspired by classical, jazz, folk, world music and chant. Her music has been performed by such groups as Vox Femina Los Angeles, Aurora Chorus, Camerata Nova, and the internationally known new music ensemble Zeitgeist, in addition to singers Carrie Henneman-Shaw, Jeffrey Hess and Nicole Warner and numerous choirs across the United States and abroad.

Dalton lives in Mahtomedi, Minnesota with her husband, three children, one dog, two cats and a guinea pig.



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KABÎR

Poet, weaver and 15th century Indian mystic, Kabîr is claimed as a saint by both Hindus and Muslims alike. His devotional poetry, which expresses his love of the Supreme Spirit and extolls a direct path to “oneness,” fuses these two theologies. Kabîr said of himself that he was “at once the child of Allah and Râm.”

Although some say Kabîr was the son of a Brahman widow, and others that he was of virgin birth, there appears to be agreement that he was raised by Muslim parents in present day Varanasi. He never received a formal education, but at a young age became a disciple of the Hindu ascetic, Ramananda.

Kabîr professed a dislike of all institutional religion and religious exclusivism. He spoke openly of his contempt for rituals and bodily austerities as a path to God. This bold thinking was not well tolerated by the local Brâhman priests.

Considered a heretic, Kabîr’s radical beliefs and “miracles of healing” caused him to be persecuted. Eventually, the emperor of Varanasi, Emperor Sikander Lodi, was able to spare his life. Even so, in the name of peace, Kabîr was banished, charged with “claiming the possession of divine powers.”

Kabîr’s love-poetry exuberantly proclaims his secret—that the Infinite is everywhere and pervades everything. His poetry overflows with the idea that the world is filled with love and joy, and that the discovery of the One Reality is already, and easily, within reach.

Kabîr spoke about the Holy being close at hand, something to be found in the *everyday* of life. Never pursuing the life of the contemplative, he led a life of the world, earning his living at the loom. Kabîr was also a musician, a husband and a father. Today, Kabîr’s poetry is an inspiration to many people worldwide.

The Flute of the Infinite

SATB choir with optional flute and hand drum*

Kabîr

trans. by Rabindranath Tagore

adpated

Catherine Dalton

A

Freely, chant-like

Playful, with joy (♩ = 112)

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for Flute, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Hand Drum (Dumbek). The Flute part begins with a melodic line marked *mf* and includes a section marked 'Playful, with joy' with a tempo of ♩ = 112. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all sing the lyrics 'The flute of the Infinite plays' in a chant-like style, marked *mf*. The Hand Drum part consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *ad lib. as desired*. The second system continues the vocal parts with the lyrics 'The flute of the Infinite plays, it plays, it plays, it' and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (B.), and Hand Drum (HD). The Flute part features a triplet of eighth notes. The vocal parts continue their melodic lines, and the Hand Drum part continues its rhythmic pattern.

* If singing a cappella, skip measure 3, moving the pick up note in meausre 3 to the end of measure 2.

** Scores for flute and hand drum and a score with piano reduction are available on the composer's website

Dalton - The Flute of the Infinite

6

Fl. 

S  plays, it plays, with-out ceas-ing.

A  plays, it plays, with-out ceas-ing.

T  plays, The flute of the In - fi - nite plays,

B  The flute of the In - fi - nite plays,

HD 

9

Fl. 

S  it plays with - out ceas - ing. The

A  it plays with - out ceas - ing. The

T  — it plays, it plays, it plays, — it plays with - out ceas - ing.

B  — it plays, it plays, it plays, — it plays with - out ceas - ing.

HD 

B

Musical score for measures 12-15. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Harp (HD). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The flute part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) have lyrics: "In - fi - nite plays, it plays, it plays, it plays, — it plays." The Tenor and Bass parts include vocalizations "Oo" and "Oh". The harp part consists of rhythmic patterns with accents.

Musical score for measures 16-19. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Harp (HD). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The flute part continues with a melodic line, marked *mp*. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) have lyrics: "The In - fi - nite plays, it plays, it". The Tenor and Bass parts include vocalizations "Oo". The harp part continues with rhythmic patterns and accents.

Dalton - The Flute of the Infinite

20

Fl. *mf*

S Oh Oo The *mf*

A Oh Oo The

T plays, it plays.

B plays, it plays.

HD

C

24

Fl.

S In - fi - nite plays. The In - fi - nite, In - fi - nite

A In - fi - nite plays. The In - fi - nite, In - fi - nite

T The In - fi - nite plays. The In - fi - nite

B The In - fi - nite plays. The In - fi - nite

HD

28 *mf* *molto rit.* **D** *a tempo* *p*

Fl. *mf* *molto rit.* *p*

S plays. *molto rit.* *p* The flute plays, —

A plays. *molto rit.* *p* The flute plays, —

T plays. *molto rit.* *subito p* The flute plays. — The flute plays.

B plays. *molto rit.* *subito p* The flute plays. — The flute plays.

HD 28

33 *mp* *rit.*

Fl. *mp* *rit.*

S the flute plays, — *mp* the flute plays, — *rit.* the flute plays.

A the flute plays, — *mp* the flute plays, — *rit.* the flute plays.

T — The flute plays. — *mp* The flute plays. — *rit.*

B — The flute plays. — *mp* The flute plays. — *rit.*

HD 33

E

Tempo II (♩ = 82)

FL. *mf*

S *mf*
Ah Ah

A *mf*
Ah Ah Ah

T *mf*
Ah Ah

B *mf*
Ah Ah

HD

FL. *molto rit.*

S *molto rit.*
Ah Ah

A *molto rit.*
Ah

T *molto rit.*
Ah Ah

B *molto rit.*
Ah Ah

HD *molto rit.*

F

Tempo III (♩ = 140)

Slightly Faster (♩ = 144)

FL. *p* *mp* *mf*

S *p* *mf*
The flute plays, the flute plays, the flute plays, the flute plays. —

A *p* *mf*
The flute plays, the flute plays, the flute plays, the flute plays. —

T *mp* *mf*
the flute plays, the flute plays. —

B *p* *mf*
The flute plays, the flute plays, the flute plays, the flute The

HD

FL. *f*

S *f*
The In - fi - nite plays, —

A *f*
The In - fi - nite plays. —

T *f*
The In - fi - nite plays —

B *f*
In - fi - nite plays, — plays with - out ceas - ing. — The

HD *f*

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For a perusal score, please
contact the composer at
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63

Fl. 

S
plays with - out, The flute of the In - fi - nite plays with - out,

A
plays with - out, The flute of the In - fi - nite plays with - out,

T
8
plays with - out, The flute of the In - fi - nite plays with - out,

B
plays with - out, The flute of the In - fi - nite plays with - out,

HD
63 

67

Fl. 

S
plays with - out, plays with-out ceas - ing and its sound is

A
plays with - out, plays with-out ceas - and its sound is

T
8
plays with - out, plays with-out ceas - ing and its sound is

B
plays with - out, plays with-out ceas - ing and its sound is

HD
67 

72

Fl. *mf* *mp* *rubato* ♩ = 60

S *mf* *mp*
love, its sound is love, its sound is love.

A *mf* *mp*
love, its sound is love, its sound is love.

T *mf* *mp*
love, its sound is love, its sound is love.

B *mf* *mp*
love, its sound is love, its sound is love.

72
HD 3

More music by Catherine Dalton

Choral

boundless joy	SATB choir and narrator	HSP-108-01A
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Everything Is As It Should Be	SATB, soprano soloist and piano	HSP-111-01
From the State of Emptiness	SATB, sus. cymbal, frame drum SSAA, sus. cymbal, frame drum, cello	HSP-104-01B HSP-104-04A
Fly with Me	SSA, piano	HSP-112-05
I Know a Woman	SATB choir, soprano soloist	HSP-110-01
My Box Text: Lauren Dalton	SA, piano	HSP-102-02
O My Friends What Can You Tell Me of Love Text: Mirabai	SATB choir with optional hand drum, finger cymbals/windchimes and tambourine	HSP-114-01
One Mind, One Heart Text: Lee Her/Kristen Maier	SATB, piano, claves, small gong, hand drum	HSP-107-01
She Rises	SSAA double choir, a cappella	HSP-109-05D
Sweet Radiant Mystery	Four part chant	HSP-105-03
The Flute of the Infinite Text: Kabîr	SATB a cappella, optional flute, hand drum	HSP-113-01
The Path You Walk Upon	SATB, piano, violin SSA, piano, violin SA, piano	HSP-100-01B HSP-100-05 HSP-100-02
Today will be warm: A Story Cloth in Sound Narration: Kao Kalia Yang	SATB, Tibetan hand chimes, djembe, hand-chimes	HSP-106-01B

Solo Voice

Fly with Me	Solo voice, piano	HSP-203-01
Magnolia Trees Text: Vikram Seth	Solo voice, piano	HSP-207-01
Siana	Solo voice	HSP-206-01
Silent Tears	Solo voice, piano	HSP-201-01
Turning into April Text: Ann Bushnell	Solo voice, piano	HSP-205-01

