

**As Pants the Hart for Cooling Springs**  
(Psalm 42:1)  
by George Frideric Handel

Easter Vigil; Year C, Proper 7; General  
SAB with Organ Accompaniment

Handel wrote five different settings of this anthem, ranging from three-part accompanied chorus to six-part double chorus with large orchestra. I first heard the three-part version and loved it, and that is certainly the version best suited for smaller church choirs.

I sought to purchase copies of the three-part version for our choir but was unable to locate a publisher. A search by our commercial provider of published scores also came up empty. As a result I have prepared this SAB version from an edition published in 1871–72 for the German Handel Society by the admirable editor Friedrich Chrysander (1826–1901).

I am deeply touched by this Psalm, and equally by Handel's musical setting. I love its pervasive minor mode, the insistent yearning heard in overlapping voices, the evocation of flowing streams in extended vocal phrases (see especially the bass, measures 39-42).

The text, Psalm 42:1, is a simile:

As pants the hart for cooling springs,  
so longs my soul for thee, O Lord.

Handel sets every occurrence of the pivotal phrase "so longs..." as a harmonic suspension: a note tied over—or a three-note motif sighing downward—into musical tension. I count thirteen of these "so longs." They are a marvelous example of Handel's gift for musical word painting.

Albert Blackwell  
January 16, 2012

# As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

Psalm 42:1

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Edited by Albert Blackwell

**Adagio, ma non troppo**

Soprano  
Alto  
Bass

As pants the hart for cool - ing streams, for cool -

As pants the hart for

**Adagio, ma non troppo**

Organ

6

- - ing streams, for - cool - ing streams, as pants the hart for

cool - ing streams, for - cool - ing streams,

6

As pants the

10

cool - ing, cool - ing streams, for cool - - - ing, cool - ing

as pants the hart for cool - ing streams for

hart for cool - ing streams, as pants the hart for cool -

10

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10 through 13. It features three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano vocal line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line has a melodic line with a long note on 'cool' in measure 10. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

14

streams, for cool - ing, cool - ing streams,

cool - - - ing, cool - ing streams,

- - ing, cool - ing streams, for cool - ing streams,

14

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 through 17. It features three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano vocal line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line continues the melody from the previous system. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line in measure 14, with a prominent eighth-note pattern.

18

as pants the hart for cool - ing, cool - - - - ing

as pants the hart for cool - ing,

as pants the hart for cool - ing,

18

22

streams, for cool - ing, cool - ing, cool - - - - ing

cool - ing streams, for cool - ing, cool - ing, cool - - - - ing

cool - ing streams, for cool - ing streams, for cool - ing

22

26

streams, for cool - ing streams, so \_\_\_ longs \_\_\_ my soul for thee, O

streams, for cool - ing, cool - ing streams,

streams, for cool - ing, cool - ing streams,

26

30

God.

so \_\_\_ longs \_\_\_ my soul, so \_\_\_ longs my soul, for thee, O God, so \_\_\_ longs my

so \_\_\_ longs my soul for thee, O

30

34

As pants the hart for cool - ing streams, for  
 soul for thee, O God. As pants the hart,  
 God, so — longs my soul for thee, O God. As

38

cool - ing, cool - ing streams, so longs my soul, so — longs my soul for thee, O  
 As pants the hart for cool - ing streams, so — longs my soul for thee, O  
 pants the hart for cool - - - - -

42

God. As pants the hart for cool-ing, cool - ing streams, so \_\_\_ longs my  
 God, so \_\_\_ longs my soul for thee, so \_\_\_ longs my  
 - ling, cool - ing streams, for cool - ing streams, so \_\_\_ longs my soul for

46

soul, so \_\_\_ longs my soul \_ for thee, \_ so  
 soul, so \_\_\_ longs my soul, for thee, \_ so  
 thee, for thee, O God, so \_\_\_ longs my soul for thee, so

50



longs my soul for thee, O God.

longs my soul for thee, O God.

longs my soul for thee, O God.

50

*p*