

A Psalm of Life

Duration 4:35

Text by
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
(1807-1882)

Music by
KEN DAVIES

Moderately ♩ = 80

Tenor

Piano

p

Tell me

7

not, in mourn-ful num-bers, Life is but an emp-ty dream! For the

12

soul is dead that slum-bers, And things are not what they seem. _____

17

f

Life is real! Life is earn - est! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou

22

art, to dust re - turn - est, Was not spo - ken of the soul

27

dim.

34

p

Not en - joy - ment, and not sor - row, Is our des - tined end or way;

A Psalm of Life

for tenor or soprano voice and piano
duration 4:35

Program note

Longfellow's *Psalm* provides one of those expressions of lofty and noble life goals we don't get to see enough of in these times. My original intent in setting this text was as a contest submission. But the piece also found some favor from the excellent heldentenor (and church choir director) from my local area, Jt Anglin, who recorded the demo of this song for me. First public performance was October 2010 by Keith Brantigan (tenor) at Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers Festival at Indiana Wesleyan University at Marion, IN.