

Commissioned by Iris Lamanna in memory of her mother, Billie Godley

# The Softness of My Mother's Hands

for SATB Voices with Keyboard Accompaniment

Words & Music by  
John Starr Alexander

8<sup>va</sup>

Piano

*mp* *espressivo e rubato*

*Red. ad lib.*

4 (8)

*poco rit.*

8

S  
A

*unis. mp a tempo*

When I was ve - ry small, just a stran - ger to the

(8)

*a tempo*

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12 *mf* *div.*

world, I prayed God would hold me safe - ly, For a -

(8)

*mf*

15

S  
A  
round me dan - ger swirled.

T  
B  
*unis. mp*

I'd stum - ble and I'd fall, Lose di -

(8)

*mp*

19

rec - tion, suf - fer pain,

But he'd al - ways hear my

*div.*

(8)

*mf*

22

*poco rit.*

prayers, I knew, for I'd reach home a - gain. If I

(8)

*poco rit.* *mp*

25 *faster*

*f* *cresc. sempre*

live to be one hun - dred, Sail to count - less far - off lands, I shall

*loco*

*faster*

*f* *cresc. sempre*

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29 *poco rit.*

*ff* *molto* *mp* *a tempo*

ne'er for - get how my prayers were met in the soft - ness of my moth - er's

*poco rit.* *ff* *molto* *mp* *a tempo*

*a tempo*

32

*f*

hands. All my troub - les healed, all my hopes are sealed, cares and

*f*

*f*

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35

wor - ries sent to far - off lands. Love and peace ful - filled, rest - less

38

spi - rits stilled by the soft - ness of my moth - er's hands.

*mp*  $\text{Coda}$  To Coda (2nd time)

*mp* L.H.  $\text{Coda}$  To Coda (2nd time) *8va---*

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42 *slower* *poco rit.* *unis.* *mp* *a tempo*

S  
A

A lit - tle touch would

(8)

*slower* *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

45

do, Noth - ing more than just a pat. Brush a

(8)

*mf* *div.*

*mf*

48

way - ward tear from off my cheek, She'd smile and that was

(8)

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S  
A

that.

T  
B

*unis. mp*

But now the world has changed, And so

(8)

But with - in my heart her

*div.*

of - ten skies are gray,

(8)

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57 *poco rit.* *D.S. al Coda*

touch will live to bright - en ev - ry day. If I

(8) *poco rit.* *D.S. al Coda*

*mp*

60  $\text{C}$  CODA *slower*

hands. By the soft - ness of my

$\text{C}$  CODA *slower*

*mf* *8va* *loco*

63 *allargando*

moth - er's hands.

*allargando*

*f* *8va*

Ped.