
Alexander Massey

Nigun Chakartani Vateida

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Nigun Chakartani vaTeida

Music's role is often to express or explore what cannot be put into words. I wrote this *nigun* at a time when I found myself soul searching and questioning, and wanting to reach out to God. In turning towards God, I felt that I myself was being searched and I felt the reassurance that I was in some way being met and understood. And then a phrase from Ps 139 came to me: "You have searched me out and known me".

For me, the two-quaver (eighth note) figure that occurs frequently as both a rising and falling motif expresses the gentle, insistent searching; it echoes the rising and sitting mentioned in verse two. The ascent to the ninth above key note parallels verse 8 ("If I ascend to heaven, you are there!"); and the repeated drop to the key note matches the descent into the deepest parts of myself. So, having composed the *nigun*, I discovered afterwards something of the inner world that I feel it represents.



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Music: Alexander Massey

"You have searched me out and known me" Ps 139:1



Musical score for Nigun Chakartani Vateida, featuring a melody in 4/4 time with various chords and repeat signs.

Chords: Am, E, Am, C, Dm, Am, F, C, G, Am, E, Am, Dm/F, 1. E, 2. E, Dm, Dm/F, Am, C, F, C, G/B, Am, Dm, G, Am, Dm, 1. Am, 2. Am.



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