

Gawain's Leave-Taking

SATB

Words translated by
J. R. R. Tolkien

Music by
David Heuser

Gawain's Leave-Taking

Now Lords and Ladies blithe and bold,
To bless you here now am I bound:
I thank you all a thousand-fold,
And prey God save you whole and sound;
Wherever you go on grass or ground,
May he you guide that nought you grieve,
For friendship that I here have found
Against my will I take my leave.

For friendship and for favours good,
For meat and drink you heaped on me,
The Lord that raised was on the Rood
Now keep you comely company.
On sea or land where'er you be,
May he you guide that nought you grieve.
Such fair delight you laid on me
Against my will I take my leave.

Against my will although I wend,
I may not always tarry here;
For everything must have an end,
And even friends must part, I fear;
Be we beloved however dear
Out of this world death will us reave,
And when we brought are to our bier
Against our will we take our leave.

Now good day to you, goodmen all,
And good day to you, young and old
And good day to you, great and small,
And grammercy a thousand-fold!
If ought there were that dear ye hold,
Full fain I would the deed achieve -
Now Christ you keep from sorrows cold
For now at last I take my leave.

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Music by
David Heuser

1985

♩ = c. 132

mf *mp*

Soprano
Now Lords, _____ to bless you here now am I bound:

mf *mp*

Alto
Now Lords blithe and bold, to bless you here now am I bound:

mf *mp*

Tenor
and la - dies blithe and bold, to bless you here now

mf *mp*

Bass
and la - dies blithe and bold, to bless you here now

4

mf *mp*

S.
I thank you all a thou - sand - fold, God save you

mf *mp*

A.
I thank you all a thou - sand - fold, God save you

mf

T.
am I bound: I thank you all a thou - sand - fold, and pray God save you

mf

B.
am I bound: I thank you all a thou - sand - fold, and pray God save you

Gawain's Leave Taking

7

S. *mf*
 whole and sound; wher-e're you go, may he you guide, for

A. *mf*
 whole and sound; wher-e're you go, may he you guide that naught you grieve,

T. *mp* *mf*
 whole and sound; wher-e're you go on grass or ground, may he you guide that naught you grieve,

B. *mp* *mf*
 whole and sound; wher-e're you go on grass or ground, may he you guid, for

10

S. *mp* *mf* *f*
 friend-ship that I here have found a - gainst my will, a -

A. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*
 for friends I have found a - gainst my will, a -

T. *mp* *mf*
 for friends I have found a - gainst my

B. friend-ship that I here have found a - gainst my

13

S. *mf*
 gainst my will I take my leave. // and for fa - vours good, for meat —

A. *mf*
 gainst my will I take my leave. For friend-ship, for fa - vours good, for meat —

T. *f* *mf*
 will I take my leave. // and for fa - vours good, for meat and

B. *f* *mf*
 will I take my leave. For friends, for meat —