

The Glorious Privilege Of Being

For Voice, Horn, and Piano

By
Douglas Hill (2000/2010)

Composed originally as a choral work for Ellsworth Snyder and the
First Unitarian Society Choir in Madison, Wisconsin

This remarkable poem was chosen because of its joyous and youthful celebration of life. It was also a life-long favorite of its own author John G. Neihardt (1881-1973). Neihardt was named Poet Laureate of Nebraska in 1921 and later named Prairie Poet Laureate of America in 1968. He is best remembered for his authoritative books, *Black Elk Speaks* and *A Cycle of the West*, which poetically documented the customs and traditions of the Sioux Indians. Near the end of his life the composer's mother worked for Neihardt, helping with correspondence and with the compilation of materials for his autobiography.

This work is re-dedicated, with "much love" and respect to the composer's parents, with gratitude for the glorious privilege of being.