

2025 National Seminar

Middle School/High School Reading Session

University of Oklahoma MARCH 6th – 8th

Presenter: John Liepold



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About the composer

Nancy Hill Cobb retired in 2019 from a 44-year career as a university administrator and professor of composition and conducting. Cobb's published choral compositions have been performed throughout the United States and world-wide, including in Denmark, New Zealand, Japan, France, and Germany. Her choral/orchestral work Threnody won the honor of Special Distinction in the 1999 ASCAP Rudolph Nissim Orchestral Competition. In July 2021, her full-length musical entitled The Suffragist (book and lyrics by Cavan Hallman) premiered at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The Suffragist highlights the dramatic stories of the last ten years of the suffrage fight in the United States (1910-1920) and the women who risked everything for the fight. Her orchestral commission, Shades and Illumination, was premiered by Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in May 2023 as a part of their Centennial Celebration.

The Dawn's Awake!

by Otto Leland Bohanan

The Dawn's awake!
A flash of smoldering flame and fire Ignites the East. Then, higher, higher,

O'er all the sky so gray, forlorn, The torch of gold is borne.

The Dawn's awake!
The dawn of a thousand dreams and thrills.
And music singing in the hills
A pæen of eternal spring
Voices the new awakening.

The Dawn's awake!
Whispers of pent-up harmonies,
With the mingled fragrance of the trees;
Faint snaches of half-forgotten song—
Fathers! Torn and numb,—
The boon of light we craved, awaited long,
Has come, has come!



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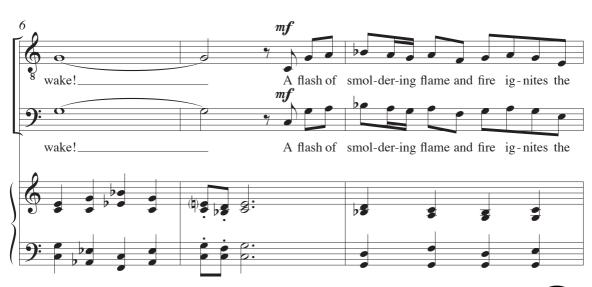
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The Dawn's Awake

Otto Bohanan Nancy Hill Cobb







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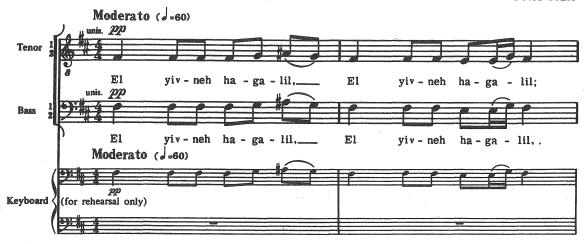


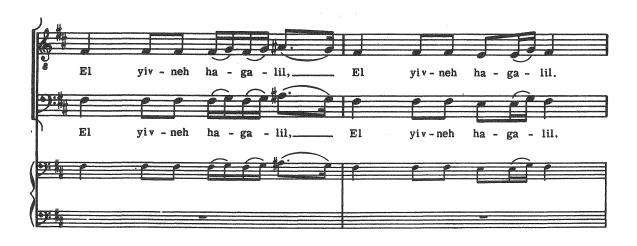


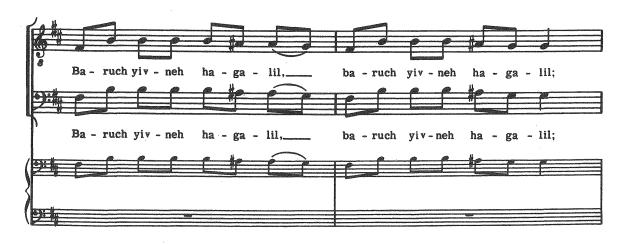


EL YIVNEH HAGALIL for TTBB Chorus, a cappella

Arranged by Peter Sozio

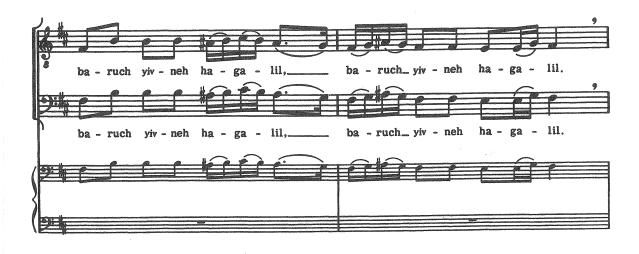






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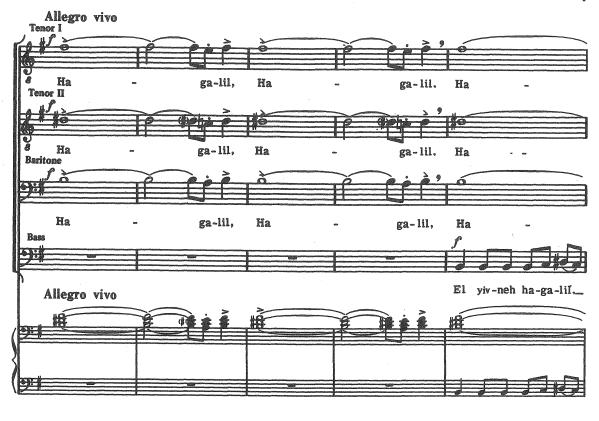


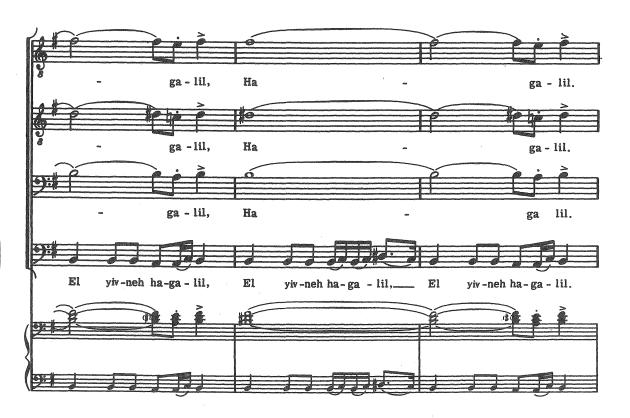




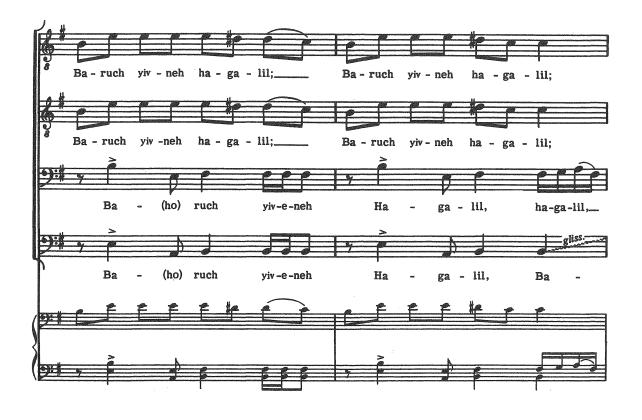
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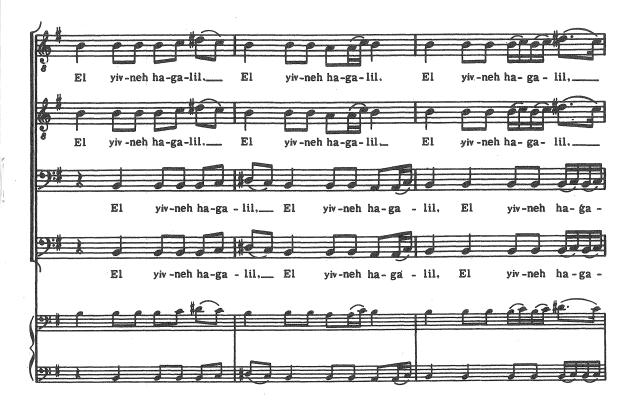


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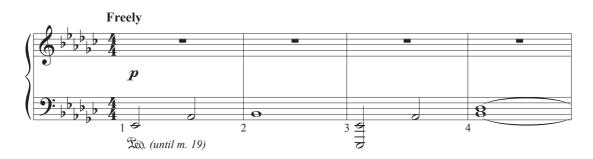


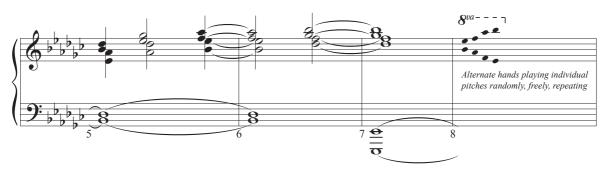
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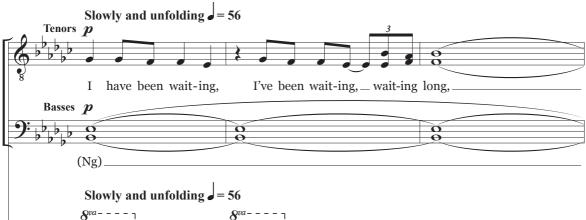
An Earth Song

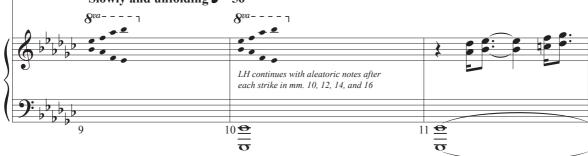
For TTBB Choir and Piano

Text by Langston Hughes (1901-1967) Music by MARQUES L. A. GARRETT (ASCAP)



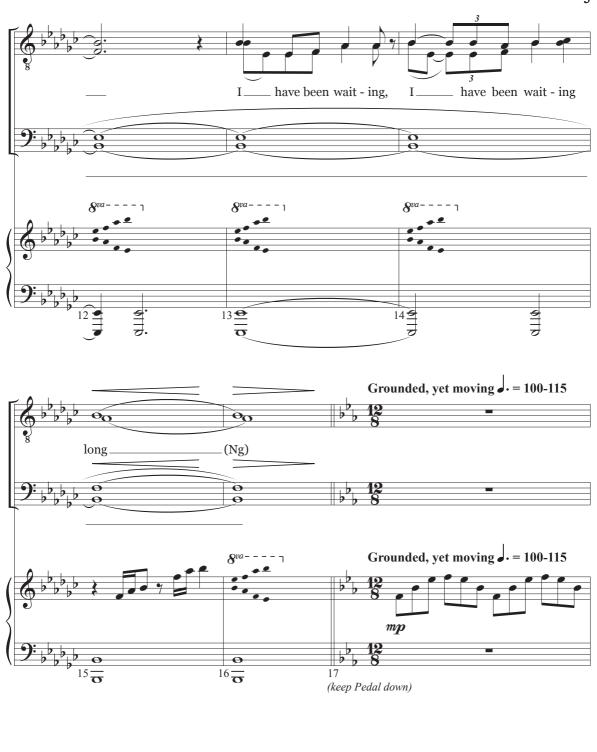






Part-dominant rehearsal tracks (BP132RTDL) and accompaniment track (BP132CDDL) available only at beckenhorstpress.con.

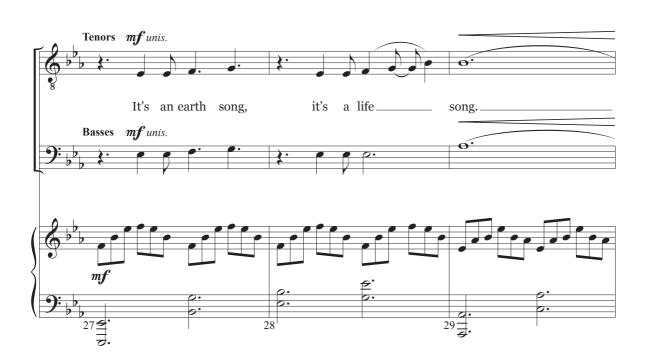
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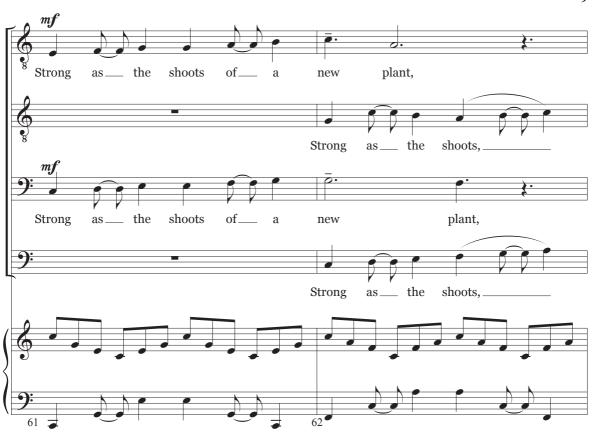
















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About the Work

Love: Then and Still was originally written for the Staley High School Falcon Chorale (Kansas City, Missouri) and has been arranged here for TTBB voices for the University of Wyoming Singing Statesmen under the direction of my friend Brian Murray. Tony Silvestri and I went back and forth a few times trying to decide on a direction of the text for this work. We knew that it should be a love song, but neither of us expected to be taken in this particular direction. Tony used his own experience of loss to create this beautiful, and ultimately uplifting, lyric.

Through loss, love remains. It was present then, and it is still. As time passes, wounds heal, and the "scars remind us what was, and what yet may be." Let this song and its words be a sentiment of hope and healing.

-Susan LaBarr

Love: Then and Still

We were married in late September, Among the changing leaves; Crimson banners in the courtyard Heralding our union. We were so happy, then.

The music we shared brought us together, A duet most unlikely. Work and home and son and daughter, Busy in joy and love. How simple it seemed, then.

But who could have known what fate awaited Our little family of four?
A spectre came and dwelt among us,
And robbed us of our joy.
And then, we were only three.

But time has passed, and wounds have healed, Leaving scars behind; But scars, like talismans, remind us What was, and what yet may be, That we loved, and love you, still.

-Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

About the Composer

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981) is a composer and choral editor whose compositions are published by Walton Music, Morningstar Music, and Santa Barbara Music Publishing. Susan has completed commissions for choirs worldwide, most notably Seraphic Fire, New York Polyphony, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Texas Choral Directors Association. She served as the Missouri Composer Laureate for 2012 and 2013. Her arrangement of Quem pastores laudavere appeared on New York Polyphony's 2014 Grammy-nominated album, *Sing Thee Nowell*. Her work for mezzo soprano and piano, *Little Black Book*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall in October 2019. Susan, her husband Cameron, and their son Elliott reside in Springfield, Missouri, where Cameron is the Director of Choral Studies at Missouri State University, Susan works as Editor of Walton Music, and Elliott is a celebrity among the neigborhood dogs.

for the University of Wyoming Singing Statesmen; Brian C. Murray, conductor for their performance at the 2024 Northwest ACDA Conference

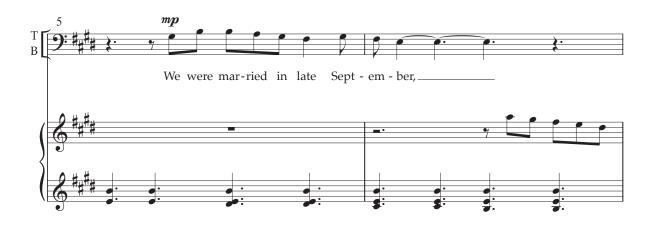
Love: Then, and Still

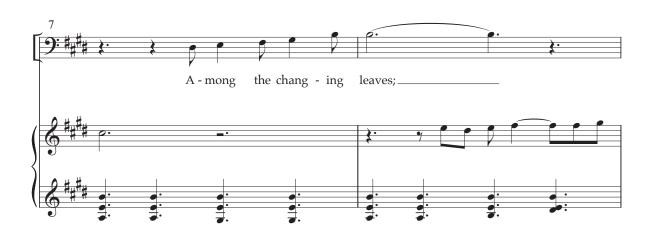
TBB with Piano*

Lyrics by CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI (b. 1965)

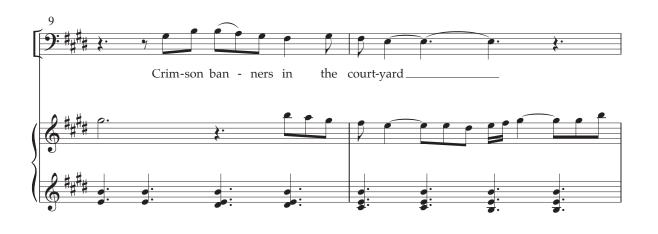
Music by SUSAN LABARR (b. 1981)

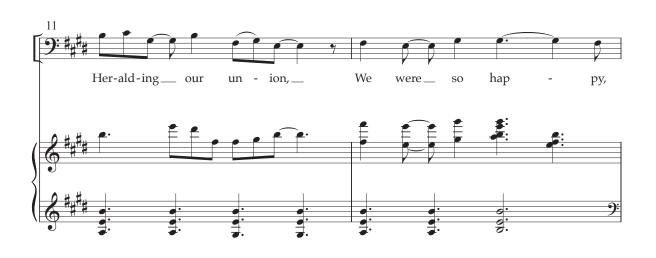




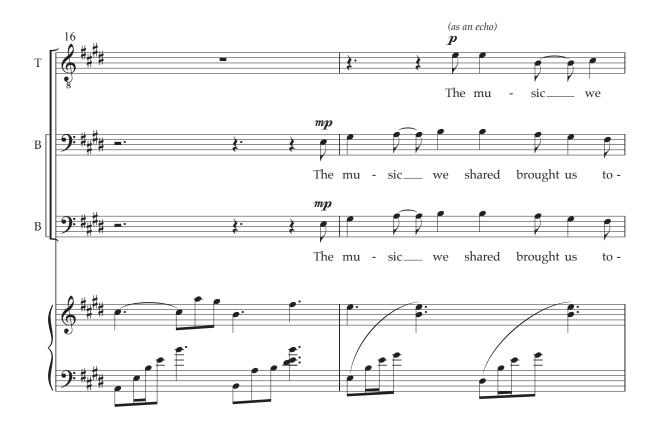


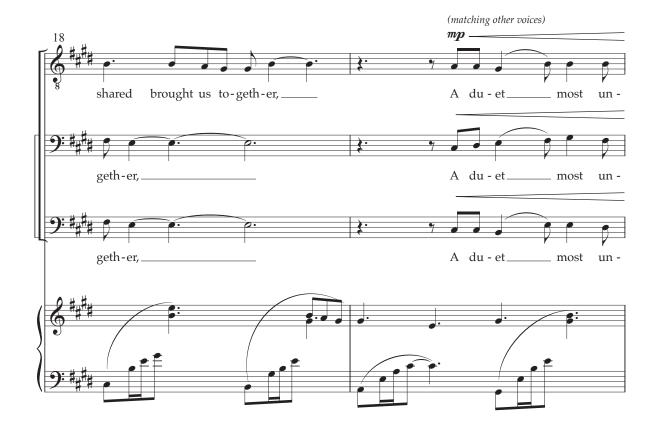
^{*} Also available for SATB (WW1721)

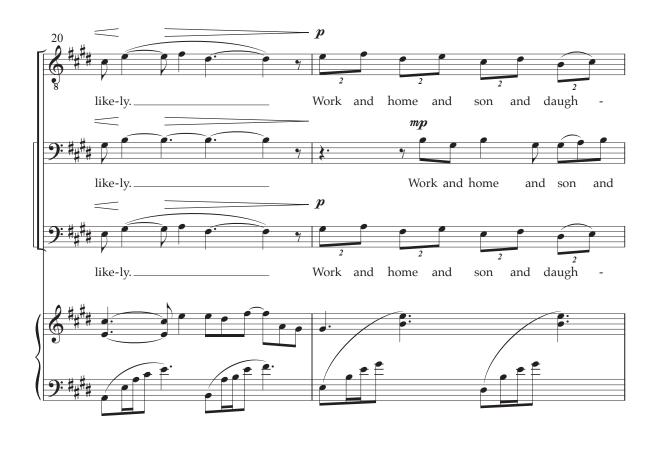


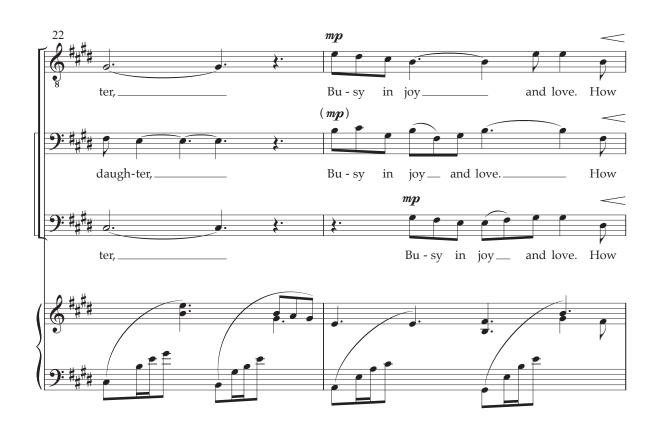


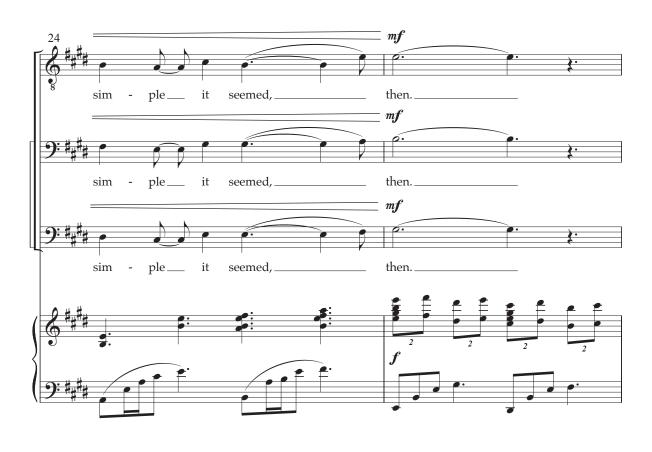




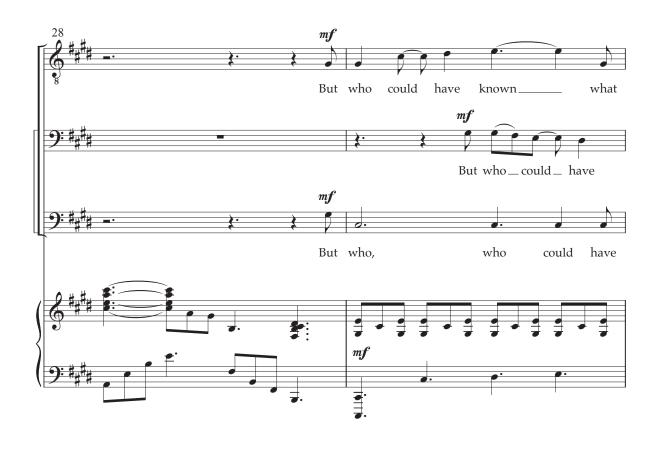






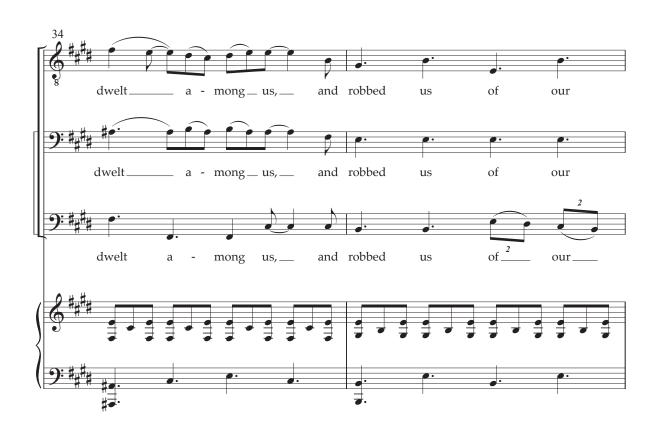


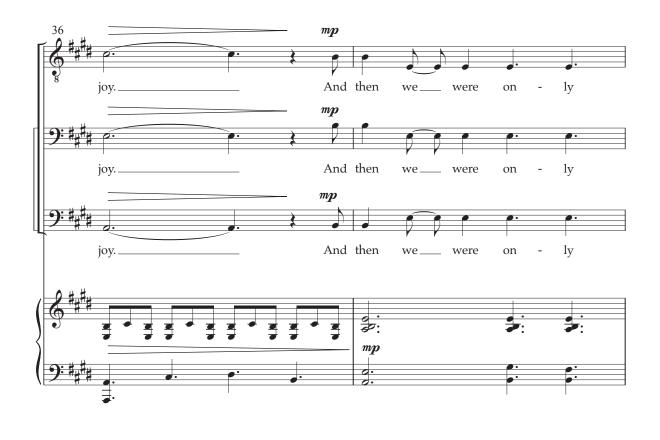




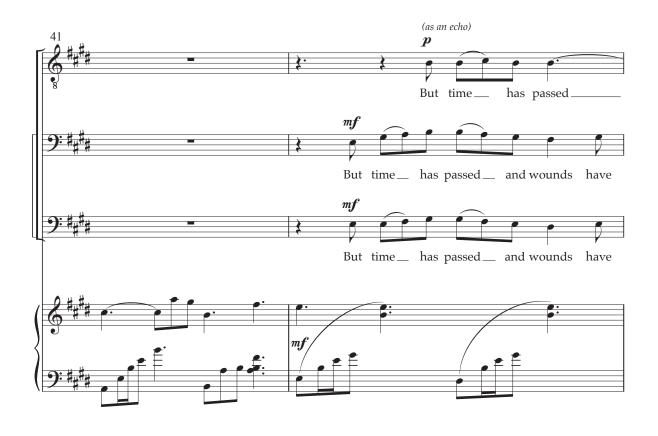


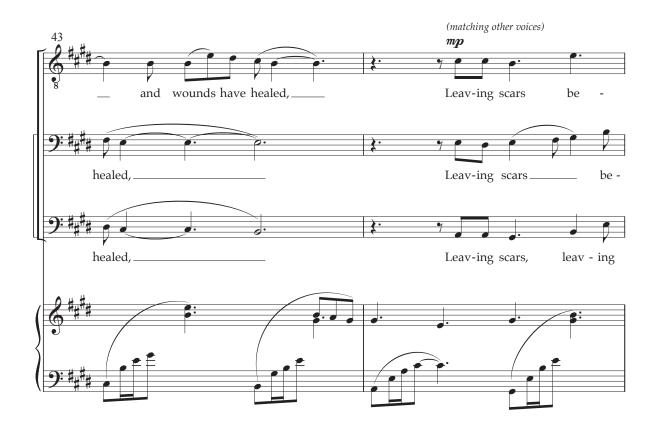


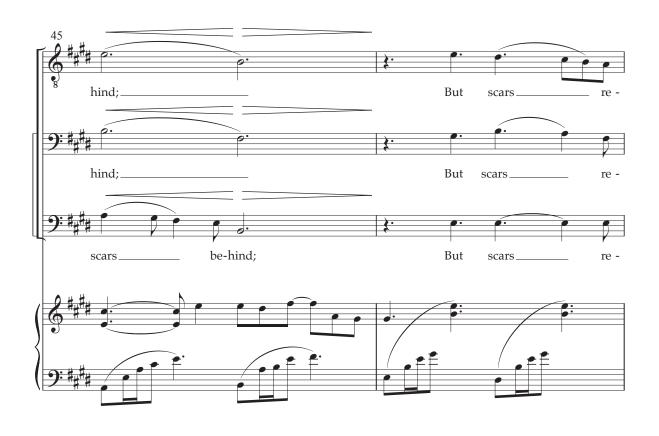


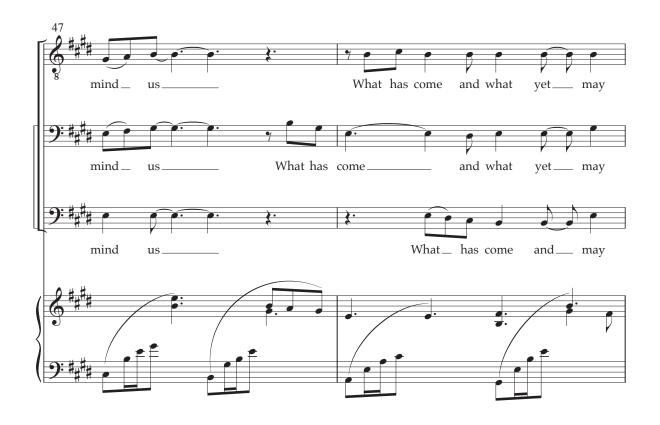


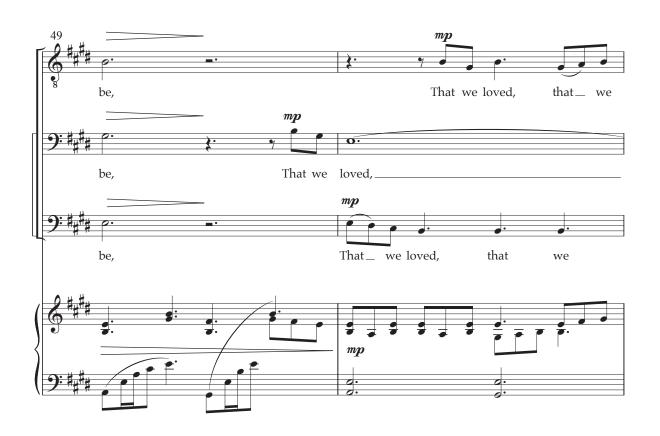


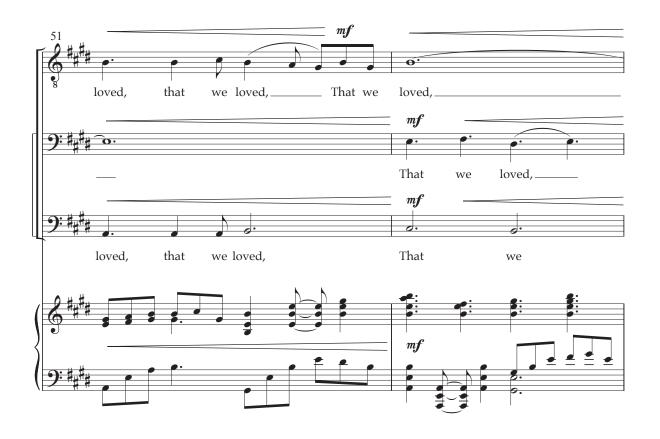


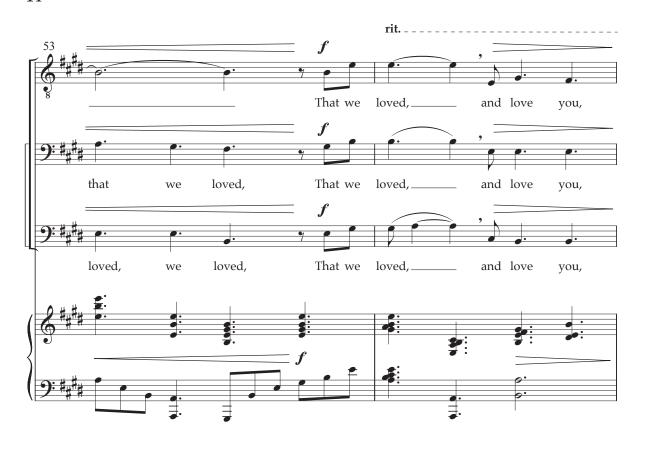


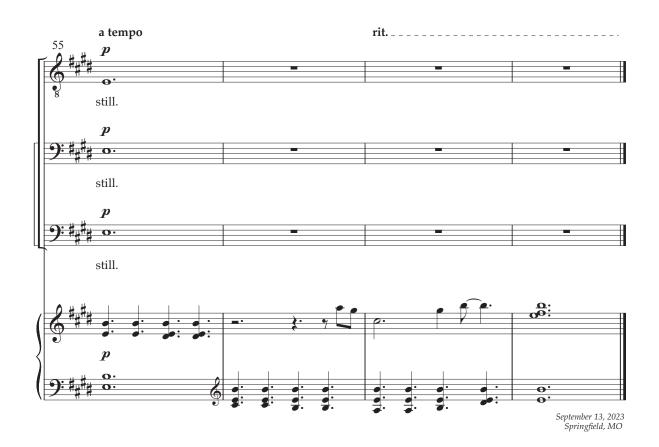












PROGRAM NOTES

Singing in the Compline Choir at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday evenings was a time I looked forward to each week during my three years as a doctoral student in Tallahassee, Florida. Gathering with fellow tenors and basses to share a contemplative, candle-lit musical service provided a space for spiritual respite and reflection before diving into the busy week. Our musical leader, Mike Norris, was kind enough to invite members of the choir—including myself—to share our sacred compositions, so they might be performed as motets in the service. As my time in graduate school coincided with unprecedented periods of conflict and uncertainty in our world, I had frequently found myself ruminating on the concept of peace. What does real peace look like? Sound like? Feel like? What factors are necessary to be present for peace to be an outcome? As Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

When I was reacquainted with the "Da pacem Domine" text, I found a richness of possibility of expression in these few short phrases and felt compelled to set it for this group of musical friends and colleagues. Mystery, hope, awe, pleading, humility, piety, ethereality, ephemerality, urgency, self-reproach, desperation, grace, gentleness, effusion, comfort—I heard all of these qualities in the text of "Da pacem" and attempted to set these words in such a way that they might come to life. I hope you hear these possibilities, too, and choose to be present in fostering justice—vigilantly and earnestly striving towards the possibility of peace.

-Brett D. Epperson

TEXT

Da pacem Domine in diebus nostris: Grant us peace, O Lord, in our days quia non est alius for there is none other qui pugnet pro nobis, who fights for us nisi tu Deus noster but you, our God

Brett D. Epperson (b. 1989)

For biographical information visit: www.ecspublishing.com

for the St. John's Episcopal Church Compline Choir, Tallahassee, Florida

Da pacem Domine

for TTBB Chorus unaccompanied

Traditional Latin

Brett D. Epperson











NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER

Internationally renowned poet, essayist, lyricist and civil rights activist Dr. Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Born with the name Marguerite Annie Johnson, she established herself as an entertainer in the 1950's under the professional name Maya Angelou. Among her many accomplishments as a writer, Angelou is best known for her poetry, and for works based on her life, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *The Heart of a Woman*. The text for this particular piece is from Dr. Angelou's book, *Rainbow in the Cloud: The Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou*. The words can be found on pages 34 and 35 of the book:

The onus is upon us all to work to improve the human condition. Perform good deeds, for that is truly the way to battle the forces of entropy that are at work in our world. The composite of all our efforts can have an effect. Good done anywhere is good done everywhere.

When we unite in purpose, we are greater than the sum of our parts.

United in Purpose is a rhythmic, contemporary, gospel-style anthem with words that challenge all of us to take responsibility for making our communities safe, supportive, and just. Dr. Angelou encourages all of us—no matter your background or lived experience—to collaborate in ways that will bring about positive change in our world. Singers should employ a vocal tone of conviction, optimism, and hope. All eighth notes (unless tied or marked with a tenuto) should be sung and played with slight detachment and a rhythmic bounce. Hand claps, foot movement, and a rhythm section (bass guitar and drum kit) add vitality to the score. The conductor-teacher is encouraged to facilitate conversations with the singers about the text and how it relates to their lives as artists and as citizens in their communities.

Rollo Dilworth is Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education in the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He has served on the faculty since 2009. Over 200 of Dilworth's choral compositions and arrangements appear in the catalogs of Hal Leonard, Colla Voce and Santa Barbara Music Publishing. He has authored 3 books of choral warm up exercise for choral ensembles of all levels. Dilworth is a frequent guest conductor of all-state, honors, festival, community, church, and professional choirs. He is an active clinician and presenter on topics including African American choral music, composing/arranging for choirs, social justice, cultural appropriation, urban music education, community engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Parts for drum kit and electric bass are available as a digital download HL#01060991.

United in Purpose

Lyrics by **MAYA ÅNGELOU** For TTBB and Piano* Duration: ca. 3:30

Music by ROLLO DILWORTH





*Available separately: SATB (00465298); TTBB (00465297) Parts for drum kit and electric bass are available as a digital download (01060991)

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