

David S. Carter

CANTICLE

for mixed choir

2009

Canticle
FOR MIXED CHOIR

Text:

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
May live forever in felicity.
And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee.

-Adapted by the composer from Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti* LXVIII (1595)

Canticle (2009) adapts its text from the 68th sonnet in 16th-century English poet Edmund Spenser's *Amoretti*, a collection of poems memorializing his courtship of his second wife Elizabeth Boyle in a Christian context. In these sonnets, Spenser draws on both the Petrarchan tradition and Anglican liturgy. The 68th sonnet presents Christ as an exemplar for how humans should love, Christ's heavenly love (displayed by his crucifixion) to be imitated by the betrothed couple in their marriage and in their reciprocal affection for God.

In the musical setting, the voices slowly rise in register and dynamic until a climax at "felicity," then, after a brief silence, engage in a more restrained, peaceful coda. The slow progress of the music allows the listener to focus on the timbres of the singers' voices, the acoustics of the performance space, and on the harmonies, which contrast with the straightforward registral design by shifting unexpectedly. The texture generally is one where the voice parts change words and pitches one by one, but at significant moments the texture briefly shifts to become more imitative or more homophonic.

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Approximate duration: 5 minutes

Canticle

for mixed choir

Text adapted from Edmund Spenser,
Amoretti LXVIII (1595)

David S. Carter

Expectantly
♩ = 60*

Soprano
This joy - - - - - ous day,

Alto
This joy - - - - - ous day,

Tenor
This joy - - - - - ous

Bass
This joy - - - - -

for rehearsal only

Expectantly
♩ = 60

S
6 dear Lord,

A
dear Lord,

T
day, dear Lord,

B
ous day, dear Lord,

*The singers should stagger their breathing throughout.

Canticle

2

10 *pp* **A** *p* *pp*

S with joy be -

A with joy be - gin, *p* *pp*

T *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
with joy

B *pp* *p* *mp*
with joy be -

10 **A** *pp* *p*



15

S gin, And grant

A *mp* *p*

T *mp* *pp* *p*
be - gin, And grant

B *p* *pp*
gin, And grant

15

19 *p* **B**

S that we for

A *pp* *p* *pp*
And grant that we

T *pp* *p*
that we for

B *mp* *pp*
that we

19 **B**

24 *mp* *p*

S whom thou did -

A *p* *pp*
for whom thou did -

T *pp* *p* *pp* *p*
whom thou did - - - dest

B *p*
for whom thou

24

Canticle

4

29 C

S *mp* *p* *pp*
dest die, Be - - - - ing

A *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*
dest die, Be - ing

T *mp* *p*
die, Be - - - - ing with

B *mp* *p*
did - - - - dest die, Be - - - -

29 C

34 *p* *mp* *p*
with thy dear blood

A *mp* *p* *mf*
with thy dear blood

T *mp* *mf*
thy dear blood

B *pp* *p* *mp*
ing with thy dear

34 *mp* *mf*

*-Baritones who cannot comfortably sing the F can switch to the tenor part here until m. 44.

D

building

38 *mp* *p* *mf*

S clean washed from sin,

A *sub.mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

A clean washed from sin,

T *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

T clean washed from sin,

B *p* *mp* *p*

B blood clean washed from

D

building

38 *sub.mp* *p* *mf*

Piano accompaniment for the first system.



42 *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

S *SI only*

S May live for - - - ev - - -

A *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

A May live for - - - ev - - -

T *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

T May live *for - - - ev - - -

B *mf* *f*

B sin, May live for - - - ev - - -

42 *f*

Piano accompaniment for the second system.

*-Baritones who switched to the tenor part at mm. 31-32 should return to the bass part here.

Canticle

6

powerfully

mf *f* *fff*

S er in fe lic i ty.

A er in fe lic i ty.

T er in fe lic i ty.

B er in fe lic i ty.

powerfully

mf *f* *fff*



E

Peacefully

p = 54

mp

S And that thy love

A SII return to Sopr. *p*
And that thy love

T *p*
And that thy love

B *p*
And that thy love

E

Peacefully

p = 54

p

Canticle

57 *p*

S we weigh - - - - - ing wor - - - - -

A we weigh - - - - - ing wor - - - - - *pp* *p*

T *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

B *pp* *mp* *p*

we weigh - - - - - ing wor - - - - -

57



61 *pp* **F**

S - - - - - thi - - - - - ly, May - - - - -

A *mp* *pp*

T *pp*

B *pp* *p*

- - - - - thi - - - - - ly, May - - - - -

61 *pp* **F**

Canticle

8

65 *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

S like - - - - wise love thee.

A like - - - - wise love thee.

T like - - - - wise love thee.

B like - - - - wise love thee.

65 *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

reverently

70 *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

S

A

T

B

70 *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

reverently

Approximate
duration: 5'

*Basses who cannot reach the low D should sing it up an octave, though there should preferably be at least two basses singing the low D.