

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 68<sup>th</sup> sonnet in 16<sup>th</sup>-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 68<sup>th</sup> 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,

T *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*  
8 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*  
8 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

S *mp* clean washed from sin, *p* *mf*

A *sub.mp* clean washed from sin, *p* *mf* *mp*

T *mp* clean washed from sin, *p* *mp* *mf*

B blood clean washed from *p* *mp* *p*

D

building

38

*sub.mp* *p* *mf*



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

S *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

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

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

B *mf* *f*

SI only

SII to Alto

May live for - - - ev - - -

May live for - - - ev - - -

May live \*for - - - ev - - -

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

\*-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**

