

PROGRAM NOTES

Cast in three sections, this piece opens with the chorus singing a triumphant call to action. The second section introduces a simple theme which is sung by the upper and the lower voices consecutively. The middle section features the upper and the lower voices in close harmonies musing on the wonder of the stars and planets. A musical palindrome, the work then restates the simple theme, ending with the triumphant call.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

This piece may be performed as part of a set of four Whitman settings under the master title, ***This Is Thy Hour***. The compositions should be performed in the following order.

This Is Thy Hour	1.3581
Clear and Sweet Is My Soul	1.3582
I Celebrate Myself (unaccompanied)	1.3583
→ We Take Up the Task Eternal	1.3584

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

For biographical information visit:
www.mjtrotta.com

Come, for we cannot tarry here,
We must bear the brunt of danger,
All the rest on us depend,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

We take up the task eternal, the burden and the lesson,
All the past we leave behind;

We emerge on a newer, mightier, varied world;
Fresh and strong the world we seize.
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing as we go the unknown ways,
O pioneers!

All the pulses of the world,
Falling in, they beat for us,
Holding single or together, steady moving, all for us,
O pioneers!

Lo, the darting bowling orb!
Lo, the brother orbs around, all the clustering suns and planets;
All the dazzling days, all the mystic nights.

We take up the task eternal, the burden and the lesson,
All the past we leave behind;

We emerge on a newer, mightier, varied world;
Fresh and strong the world we seize.
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing as we go the unknown ways,
O pioneers!

Has the night descended?
Was the road so toilsome?
Did we stop discouraged, nodding on our way?

We take up the task eternal, the burden and the lesson,
All the past we leave behind;

We emerge on a newer, mightier, varied world;
Fresh and strong the world we seize.
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing as we go the unknown ways,
O pioneers!

Till with sound of trumpet,
Far, far off the day-break call, how loud and clear I hear it,
Swift! spring to your places,
O pioneers!

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Leaves of Grass

Adapted by Michael John Trotta

*Commissioned in honor of Artistic Director Billy Orton
upon his retirement from the Huntsville Community Chorus Association,
and to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.
We have learned to soar from both!*

We Take Up the Task Eternal

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Adapted by Michael John Trotta

Michael John Trotta

(ASCAP)

Vigorously ♩ = 66

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Piano

ff

f

Come, for we can - not tar - ry

Come, for we can - not tar - ry

3

here, We must bear the brunt of dan - ger, All the rest on us de -

here, We must bear the brunt of dan - ger, All the rest on us de -

5

pend, O pi - o - neers!

pend, O pi - o - neers!



8 **With confident assurance** ♩ = 66 *mp unis.*

S A

We

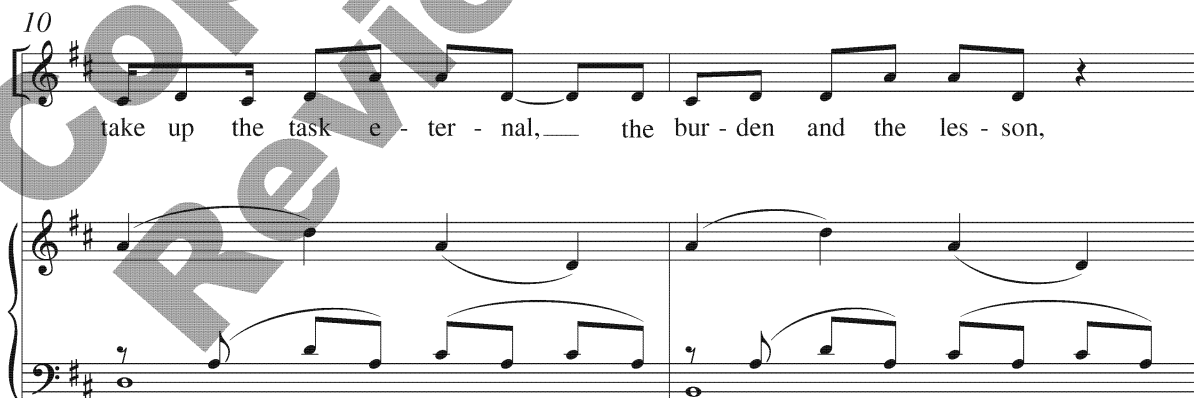
With confident assurance ♩ = 66

mp



10

take up the task e - ter - nal, — the bur - den and the les - son,



12

S
A

All the past we leave be - hind;

T
B

mp *unis.*
We



14

T
B

take up the task e - ter - nal, the bur - den and the les - son,



16

S
A

mf
We e -

T
B

All the past we leave be - hind; *mf*
We e -



18

merge on a new - er, might - ier, var - ied world;

merge on a new - er, might - ier, var - ied world;

20

Fresh and strong_ the world we seize.

Fresh and strong_ the world we seize.

22

f Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing, ven - t'ring as we go

f Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing, ven - t'ring as we go

24

the un - known ways,

the un - known ways,

26

mf O pi - o -

mf O pi - o -

28

f neers!

f neers!

mp All the

30

puls - es of the world, Fall - ing in, they beat for us,

32

Hold - ing sin - gle or to - geth - er,

mp

34

stead - y mov - ing, all for us, O — pi - o -

mp *mf*

37 *mp*

neers! _____ Lo, the dart - ing bowl - ing orb! _____

neers!

mp (optional accompaniment through m. 47)

40 *mp*

mp *mf* all the clus - ter - ing suns and

Lo, the broth - er orbs a - round, _____

43 *mf* *mp* *mf*

plan - ets, All the daz - zling days, _____

mp *mf*

All the daz - zling days, _____

46 *mp* *mf*

all the mys - tic nights.

mp *mf*

all the mys - tic nights.

p *mf (play)*

49 *mp unis.*

S A We take up the task e - ter - nal, the

51

S A bur - den and the les - son, All the past we leave be - hind;

T B *mp unis.*

We

54

T
B

take up the task e - ter - nal, the bur - den and the les - son,

56

S
A

We e -

T
B

All the past we leave be - hind; We e -

58

merge on a new - er, might - ier, var - ied world;

merge on a new - er, might - ier, var - ied world;

60

Fresh and strong_ the world we — seize.

Fresh and strong_ the world we — seize.

62

f Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing, ven - t'ring as we go

f Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing, ven - t'ring as we go

64

the un - known ways,

the un - known ways,

66 *mf*

O pi - - - o -

mf

O pi - - - o -

68 *f*

neers!

f

neers!

70 *mp unis.*

Has the night de - scend - - ed?

mp unis.

Has the night de -

72

Was the road so toil - - some?

scend - - - ed? Was the road so

74

Did we stop dis - cour - aged, nod - ding on our

toil - some? nod - ding on our

77

way? ——— *mf* *unis.*

way? We

80

S
A

take up the task e - ter - nal, the bur - den and the les - son,

82

S
A

All the past we leave be - hind;

T
B

mf unis.
We take up the task e - ter - nal, the

85

T
B

bur - den and the les - son, All the past we leave be -

87

S
A

f

We e - merge on a new - er, might - ier,

T
B

hind; We e - merge on a new - er, might - ier,

89

unis.

var - ied world; Fresh and strong the world we

unis.

var - ied world; Fresh and strong the world we

91

ff

seize. Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing,

ff

seize. Con - qu'ring, hold - ing, dar - ing,

93

ven - t'ring as we go the un - known

ven - t'ring as we go the un - known

95

ways,

ways,

f

f

97

pi - o - neers!

pi - o - neers!

100

f Till with the sound of a trum - pet, Far, far off the day - break

f Till with the sound of a trum - pet, Far, far off the day - break

f

102

call, _____ how loud and clear I hear it, Swift! spring to your

call, _____ how loud and clear I hear it, Swift! spring to your

104

plac - es, O pi - o -

plac - es, O pi - o -

106

fp neers! *f*

fp neers! *f*

ca. 5:00