

## Program Notes

*My King is Comin' Soon* was commissioned by The Wartburg Choir and Dr. Lee Nelson, and premiered at Christmas at Wartburg in 2019. This modern-day spiritual is appropriate year-round, but has special resonance in the season of Advent, when we wait with longing hearts—hearts at times filled with joy, but at times filled with heaviness. The text of the piece recalls iconic stories of rescue and promise in the Old Testament, and invites the chorus and listener to imagine those promises coming true today—and to imagine a world of mercy, justice, peace, and compassion.

—Kyle Pederson

### Text

When is my king a-comin'?  
Lord, hear my cry!  
Lord, I am tired, and heavy is my burden.  
The king is comin',  
my king is comin' soon.  
I'm down in the valley,  
and starin' at the mountain.  
You split the mighty waters of the Red Sea,  
Lord, will you split the rising waters all around me?  
The king is comin',  
my king is comin' soon.  
He showed up for Daniel,  
He showed up for Moses,  
He showed up for David when he fought Goliath.  
He showed up for David,  
He showed up for Moses,  
He showed up for Daniel down with the lions.  
The world is weary and heavy with its hunger;  
we wait on your promise no matter how much longer.  
A child will be comin', the prophets all have spoken;  
freeing the captives and healing all that's broken.  
When the king comes  
see justice roll like thunder!  
Mercy, peace, and compassion will roll like thunder!  
The king is comin',  
my king is comin' soon.

—Kyle Pederson

**Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)**

For biographical information visit:  
[www.kylepederson.com](http://www.kylepederson.com)

Commissioned by The Wartburg Choir, Dr. Lee Nelson, Director

# My King Is Comin' Soon

for Tenor or Baritone Solo and SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Words and Music by  
Kyle Pederson (ASCAP)

Soulful, with much rubato ♩ = ca. 75

*mf*

close to "n"

Solo

When is my king a - com - in'.

Soprano  
Alto

Oh!

Tenor  
Bass

Oh!

*p*

*p*

3

oh, a-com-in', a - com - in'?

Lord, hear my

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

**A** Driving forward ♩ = 150

(Solo)

6

cry!

Alto *p*

The king is com-in', my king is com-in' soon.

9 *Soprano p*  
 The king is com-in', my king \_

*(Alto) p*  
 The king is com-in', my king \_ is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king \_

12  
 \_ is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king \_ is com-in' soon.

\_ is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king \_ is com-in' soon.

15 *Solo mf*  
 Lord, I am tired, \_ and heav - y is my bur - den. \_

*Soprano p*  
 Oo. \_ The king is com-in', my king \_

*Alto*  
 Oo. \_

*Tenor p unis.*  
 Oo. \_ The king is com-in', my king \_

*Bass* Oo. \_

18  
 I'm down in the val-ley, star - in' at the moun - tain. \_

*mf* \_ is com-in' soon. *p* Oo. \_

*mf* \_ is com-in' soon. *p* Oo. \_

21

You split the might - y wa-

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. Oo.

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. Oo.

24

- ters of the Red\_ Sea;

*mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

27

Lord, will you split the ris-ing wa-ters all a-round me? —

*p*

Oo.

*p*

Oo.

The king is com-in', my king —

The king is com-in', my king —

30

*mp*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*mp*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

33 *mf* *f*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king\_

*mf* *f*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king\_

36 *mp*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

Well, he *mp*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

39

S

Showed up for Mo - ses, and He showed up for Dan - iel, and He

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

A

Oo,

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

T

Oo,

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

B

Oo,

(for rehearsal only)

41 *mf*  
 showed up for Da - vid when he \_\_\_\_\_ fought Go - li - ath.  
 oh. *mf*  
 oh. *mf* *mp* Well, he  
 oh. *mf*  
 oh.

43 *p*  
 showed on up, showed on up,  
*p* *mf*  
 He showed up for Da - vid, and he  
 showed up for Mo - ses, and he showed up for Da - vid, and he  
*p*  
 Showed up, showed up,

45 *mp*

showed on up, showed up,

*mf*

showed on up for Dan - iel,

showed up for Dan - iel down with the li - ons,

*mp* *mf*

showed up, showed up,

47 *Solo* *mf*

The

*mf* *f*

showed up, he showed up! —

showed up, he showed up! —

*f*

showed up, yes, he showed up! —

*f*

showed up, yes, he showed up! —

† The soloist's music does not appear in the choral reduction.

49

world\_ is wea - ry and heav - y with its hun - ger,

*p*

Oo.

*p*

Oo.

*mf*

My king is

*mf*

My king is

51

we

*mf*

The king is com - in', my king is com - in'.\*

*mf*

The king is com - in', my king is com - in'.\*

com - in'.\*

com - in'.\*

\* Close to the "n," "ng," or "m" sound immediately through m. 98 wherever an asterisk appears after a word.



53

wait on your prom - ise no mat - ter how much long - er. \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

*p*

My king is

My king is

55

The king is com - in', my king is com - in' soon.\*

The king is com - in', my king is com - in' soon.\*

com - in'.\*

com - in'.\*

A

57

child will be com - in', the proph - ets all have spo - ken;

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

*p*

*p*

Child is com - in', oh,

59

Free-ing the cap - tives and heal-

*mf* *p*

The king is com-in', my king is com-in'.\*

*mf* *p*

The king is com-in', my king is com-in'.\*

*mf* *p*

The king is com-in', my king is com-in'.\*

*mf* *p*

oh,

- ing all that's bro - ken. —

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*mp* *mf*

oh,

65 *mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon, The king is com-in', my king —

*mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king —

*mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king —

the king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king —

68 *p sub.*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*p sub.*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*p sub.*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

*mp*

— is com-in' soon. The king is com-in' soon.

71 *mf*

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon. Well, He

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

The king is com-in', my king — is com-in' soon.

The king is com-in' soon.

showed up for Mo - ses, and He showed up for Dan - iel, and He

*p* ————— *mp* ————— *p* ————— *mp*

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* ————— *mp* ————— *p* ————— *mp*

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* ————— *mp* ————— *p* ————— *mp*

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

showed up for Da - vid when he \_\_\_\_\_ fought Go - li - ath.

\_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

oh, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* \_\_\_\_\_

oh, \_\_\_\_\_ Well, He

\_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

oh, \_\_\_\_\_

77

*p*

showed on up, showed on up,

*p* ————— *mf* —————

He showed up for Da - vid, and he

8 showed up for Mo - ses, and he showed up for Da - vid, and he

*p*

Showed up, showed up,

79

*mp*

showed on up, showed up,

*mf*

showed on up for Dan - iel.

8 showed up for Dan - iel down with the li - ons.

*mp* *mf*

showed up, showed up,

81 *mf* *f* *p sub.* (stage whisper)

showed up, he showed up! — With the

Showed up, he showed up! —

Showed up, yes, he showed up! —

showed up, yes, he showed up! —

83

king a-com-in', when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

(stage whisper) *mp*

With the

*p*

When\* will my king\* come?\*

85

when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

king a-com-in', when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

*(stage whisper)*  
*mf*  
With the

When\* will my king\* come?\*

87

*mf*  
when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

*mf*  
when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

king a-com-in', when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

*mf*  
When will my king come?



89 *f* (no longer a stage whisper)

Mer - cy\_ and peace and\_ com - pas - sion\_ roll\_ like thun - der!

*f* (no longer a stage whisper)

Mer - cy\_ and peace and\_ com - pas - sion\_ roll\_ like thun - der!

*f* (no longer a stage whisper)

Mer - cy\_ and peace and\_ com - pas - sion\_ roll\_ like thun - der!

*f* (no longer a stage whisper)

When will my king come?

91 *p* (stage whisper)

When the king comes, see the jus - tice roll like thun - der!

*p* (stage whisper)

When the king comes, see the jus - tice roll like thun - der!

He will come, (do not close to "m") He will  
*p* *mp*  
*p* a - com - in',\* *mp* a - com - in',\*

King,\* king,\*  
*p* *mp*  
*p* 3 *mp* 3  
 When is my king,\* when is my king,\*

93

When the king comes, when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!

When the king comes, when the king comes, see the jus-tice roll like thun-der!  
come, He will come!

*mf* a - com - in',\* *f* a - com-in',\*  
king,\* king,\*  
*mf* when is my king,\* *f* when is my king,\*

95

He will come, (do not close to "m") He will  
*p* a - com - in',\* *mp* a - com - in',\*  
King,\* king,\*  
*p* When is my king,\* *mp* when is my king,\*

oh, oh,

97

come, He will come!

*mf* a - com - in',\* *f* a com - in'?\*

king,\* king?\*

*mf* *f*

*mp* 3 *f* 3

when is my king,\* when is my king?\*

ah.

ah.

99

S A

When are you com - in', Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

T B

When are you com - in', Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* My king is com - in'!

101

*ff*

The king is com - in', my king \_\_\_\_\_ is com - in' soon.

*ff*

The king is com - in', my king \_\_\_\_\_ is com - in' soon.

103

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in' soon.

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in' soon.

105

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in' soon.

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in' soon.

107

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in'.

The king is com - in', my king — is com - in'.

109

*Solo mf*

My king is com - in', com - in! My king is com - in', com - in!

*fp* soon! *mp* My king is com - in', com - in!

*fp* soon! *mp* My king is

111

*f*

Solo

*mp* My king is com - in' soon! *mf*

S *mp* My king is com - in', com - in'! *mf* My king is com - in', com - in'!

A *mf* My king is com - in', com - in'! My king is com - in', com - in'!

T *mf* Yes, he's a - com - in, oh, yes, he's a - com - in', oh,

B *mf* com - in! My king is com - in'! My king is

113

*f*

He's com - in' soon!

*f* My king is com - in', com - in'! My king is com - in', com - in'!\_

*f* My king is com - in', com - in'! My king is com - in', com - in'!\_

*f* Yes, he's a - com - in, oh, yes, he's a com - in, \_

*f* com - in'! My king is com in', com - in'!\_

115

*ff*  
My king is com-in' so soon! *gliss.*

*ff*  
My king is com-in' so soon! *gliss.*

*ff*  
My king is com-in' so soon! *gliss.*

*ff*  
My king is com-in', so soon! *gliss.*

My king is com-in' so soon!

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