

*World premiere on March 15, 2014 in Los Altos, California.
Dedicated to Maestro Gregory Wait.
Grateful acknowledgement to Candace Pelissero for her generous support
for Schola Cantorum's Fiftieth Anniversary commissions.*

Performances Note

This work was composed for a large choral ensemble of approximately 90 voices with the capability of dividing into two choirs. The division that actually does occur in this piece is an "internal" division rather than an "external" one. Therefore, it is not necessary for the singers to be physically divided into two separate groups with a space between them, but rather, the singers may remain in their usual arrangement in the chorus and sing the double chorus section with the effect of an internal, reflective type of sound rather than the more commonly used antiphonal sound with a spatial effect created by physical separation of the two choruses.

Program Note

How Long We Wait, for large mixed chorus and oboe, was commissioned by Schola Cantorum of Mountain View, California, for the celebration of the ensemble's fiftieth anniversary in the 2013–2014 concert season. The work received its world premiere performance on March 15, 2014 in a concert conducted by Gregory Wait, Music Director of Schola Cantorum.

Based on a poem by Thomas Merton, the text speaks of the anticipation of events yet to be fulfilled. In more specific terms, the poem is an Advent poem which heralds of the birth of Jesus through the use of texts from biblical parables and from other Gospel narratives combined with images of everyday experiences, such as church bells, birds, water, and the fields and trees that were familiar to Merton's Trappist community.

Duration: 6'50"

How Long We Wait

How long we wait, with minds as quiet as time,
Like sentries on a tower.
How long we watch, by night, like the astronomers.
Heaven, when will we hear you sing.
Arising from our grassy hills,
And say: "The dark is done, and Day
Laughs like a Bridegroom in His tent, the lovely sun,
His tent the sun, His tent the smiling sky!"
How long we wait with minds as dim as ponds
While stars swim slowly homeward in the water of
our west!
Heaven, when will we hear you sing?
How long we listened to the silence of our vineyards
And heard no bird stir in the rising barley.
The stars go home behind the shaggy trees.
Our minds are grey as rivers.
O earth, when will you wake in the green wheat,
And all our Trappist cedars sing:
"Bright land, lift up your leafy gates!
You abbey steeple, sing with bells!
For look, our Sun rejoices like a dancer
On the rim of our hills."
In the blue west the moon is uttered like the word:
"Farewell."

—Thomas Merton

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Commissioned for the Fiftieth Anniversary of *Schola Cantorum*
 Gregory Wait, Music Director

How Long We Wait

for Large SATB/SATB Chorus (divisi) and Oboe

Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

Frank Ferko

Serene, meditative ♩ = 60
espressivo

Oboe

7

S

A

T

B

Reh. Kbd.

How long we wait _____

How long we wait _____

How long we wait _____

How long we wait _____

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14

Ob. *mp*

S
— with minds as qui-et as time, — Like sen - tries — on a tower. —

A
— with minds as qui-et as time, — Like sen - tries — on a tower. —

T
— with minds as qui-et as time, — Like sen - tries — on a tower. —

B
— with minds as qui-et as time, — Like sen - tries — on a tower. —

Reh. Kbd.

19

Ob. *mf*

S
— How long we watch, by night, — like the as - tron - o - mers.

A
— How long we watch, by night, — like the as - tron - o - mers.

T
— How long we watch, by night, —

B
— How long we watch, by night, —

Reh. Kbd.

A bit faster ♩ = 66

25

Ob.

S

A

T

B

Reh. Kbd.

How long we wait, wait, wait,

How long we wait. Heav - en, when will we hear you

How long we wait, wait.

How long we wait, wait. wait,

A bit faster ♩ = 66

30

S

A

T

B

Reh. Kbd.

wait.

sing, when will we hear you, when will we hear you sing,

Heav - en, when will we hear you sing, when will we hear

wait. Heav - en, when will we hear you

32 *mf*

S Heav - en, when will we hear you sing, _____

A _____ when will we hear you sing, heav en, when will we

T you sing, _____ sing, _____ when will we hear you sing, _____

B sing, when will we hear you _____ sing, hear

Reh. Kbd.

34

Ob. *mf* *cresc.*

S hear you sing, _____ A - ris - ing from our grass - y

A hear you sing, _____ A - ris - ing from our gras - sy hills, _____

T heav - en when will we hear you _____ sing, _____ A - ris - ing from our

B _____ you sing, _____ A - ris - ing

Reh. Kbd. *cresc.*

37

Ob. *f*

S hills, And say: _____ "The dark is done, and Day Laughs

A _____ And say: _____ "The dark is done, and Day Laughs

T grass - y hills, _____ And say: _____ "The dark is done, and Day Laughs

B from our grass - y hills, And say: "The dark is done, and Day Laughs

Reh. Kbd. *f*

41

S _____ like a Bride-groom in His tent, the love -

A _____ like a Bride-groom in His tent, the love - ly sun, _____

T _____ like a Bride-groom in His tent, the love - ly sun, His tent the

B _____ like a Bride-groom in His tent, the love - ly sun, _____ His tent the sun, His

Reh. Kbd.

45 *espressivo* *poco rall.*

Ob. *f* *3*

S
- ly sun, His tent the sun, His tent the smi-ling sky!"

A
His tent the sun, His tent the smi-ling sky!"

T
sun, His tent the smi-ling sky!"

B
tent the smi-ling sky!"

Reh. Kbd. *poco rall.*

(Moving forward, the rehearsal keyboard part does not appear where it is not required.)

49 *Slowly* ♩ = 52

Ob. *dim.* *3* *3* *mp* *poco cresc.* *3*

S *p* *mf*
How long we wait with minds as dim as ponds While stars swim slow - ly

A *p* *poco cresc.* *mf*
How long we wait with minds as dim as ponds While stars swim slow - ly

53 *p* *3*

S
home-ward in the wa-ter of our west! Heav - en, when will we hear you

A *p* *3*
home-ward in the wa-ter of our west! Heav - en, when will we hear you

56

S
sing?

A
sing?

T
p unis. How long we lis-tened to the si-lence of our vine-yards, And heard no bird stir in the ris-ing *poco cresc.*

B
p unis. How long we lis-tened to the si-lence of our vine-yards, And heard no bird stir in the ris-ing *poco cresc.*

60

T
mf bar - ley. The stars go home — be - hind — the shag - gy trees. Our

B
mf bar - ley. The stars go home — be - hind — the shag - gy trees. Our

63

Ob.
mp *3* *mf*

T
dim. *p* minds — are grey — as riv - ers.

B
dim. *p* minds — are grey — as riv - ers.

66

Ob.

S *mf unis.*
O earth, when will you wake in the green wheat,

A *mf unis.*
O earth, wake ___ in the green wheat.

Chorus I

T *mf unis.*
O earth, wake ___ in the green wheat,

B *mf unis.*
O earth, wake in the green wheat.

S *mf unis.*
O earth, when will you wake in the

A *mf unis.*
O earth, wake ___ in the

Chorus II

T *mf unis.*
O earth, wake ___ in the

B *mf unis.*
O_ earth, wake in the

Reh. Kbd. *mf*

70 *f*

S And all our Trap-pist ce-dars sing:

A *f*
And all our Trap-pist ce-dars sing:

Chorus I

T *f*
And all our Trap-pist ce-dars sing:

B *f*
And all our Trap-pist ce-dars sing:

S green wheat, *f* And all our Trap-pist ce-dars

A green wheat, *f* And all our Trap-pist ce-dars

Chorus II

T green wheat, *f* And all our Trap-pist ce-dars

B green wheat, *f* And all our Trap-pist ce-dars

Reh. *f*

Kbd.

74

ff

S
"Bright land, lift up your leaf - y gates!"

ff

A
"Bright land, lift up your leaf - y gates!"

Chorus I

ff

T
"Bright land, lift up your leaf - y gates!"

ff

B
"Bright land, lift up your leaf - y gates!"

ff

S
sing: "Bright land, lift up your leaf - y

ff

A
sing: "Bright land, lift up your leaf - y

Chorus II

ff

T
sing: "Bright land, lift up your leaf - y

ff

B
sing: "Bright land, lift up your leaf - y

ff

Reh. Kbd.

77

S *unis.*
gates! — You

A *unis.*
gates! — You

Chorus II

T *f unis.*
gates! — You ab - bey stee - ple, sing — with bells, — sing with bells, —

B *f unis.*
gates! — You ab - bey stee - ple, sing — with bells, — sing with bells, —

Reh. Kbd. *f*

80

S
ab - bey stee ple, sing with bells, — sing — with bells, — sing, — sing — with

A
ab - bey stee - ple, sing with bells, — sing — with bells, — sing, — sing — with

Chorus II

T
sing — with bells, — you ab - bey stee - ple, sing — with

B
sing — with bells, — you ab - bey stee - ple, sing — with

Reh. Kbd.

82 *f*

S For _____ look, _____ our Sun re-joic ³ - es

A For _____ look, _____ our Sun re-joic ³ - ces

Chorus I

T For _____ look, _____ our Sun

B For _____ look, _____ our Sun like

S bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with

A bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with

Chorus II

T bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with

B bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with bells, ___ sing_ with

Reh. Kbd

(The rehearsal keyboard staves appear by Chorus number in bars 82-86.)

Reh. Kbd.

The image shows a page of a musical score, page 14. It features vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with two keyboard parts (Reh. Kbd). The score is divided into two choruses, Chorus I and Chorus II. The lyrics are: 'For _____ look, _____ our Sun re-joic ³ - es' for Soprano and Alto; 'For _____ look, _____ our Sun' for Tenor; and 'For _____ look, _____ our Sun like' for Bass. The keyboard parts consist of two staves, each with a treble and bass clef, and contain complex rhythmic patterns with many triplets. A large watermark 'REHEARSAL ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page. The rehearsal keyboard staves are labeled 'Reh. Kbd.' and 'Reh. Kbd.'.

84

S like ³ a danc - er On the rim of ³ our

A like a danc - er On the rim of our

Chorus I

T a danc - er On the rim of our

B a danc - er On the rim of our

S bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with

A bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with

Chorus II

T bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, bells,

B bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, sing with bells, bells,

Reh. Kbd.

Reh. Kbd.

86

Ob. *ff* 3 3 *dim.* 3 *rall.* *p*

S hills.?"

A hills.?"

Chorus I

T hills.?"

B hills.?"

S bells! *rall.*

A bells!

Chorus II

T sing with bells!

B sing with bells!

Reh. Kbd. *rall.*

Reh. Kbd. *rall.*

89 Very slowly ♩ = 44

Ob.

Very slowly ♩ = 44

S
In the blue west — the moon — is ut - tered like the word: "Fare -
Fare -
pp

A
In the blue west — the moon is ut - tered like the word: "Fare -
pp

Choruses I & II

T
In the blue west — the moon is ut - tered like the word: "Fare -
pp

B
In the blue west — the moon is ut - tered like the word: "Fare -
pp

Reh. Kbd.
Very slowly ♩ = 44
pp

92 *rall.*

Ob. *p* *pp*

S *rall.*
well." well."

A
well, fare well."

T
well."

B
well."

Reh. Kbd. *rall.*