

Keep Your Lamps
SATB, SB soli, percussion

arr. Timothy C. Takach

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Timothy C. Takach

Keep Your Lamps

for SATB choir, SB soli and percussion

Commissioned by Crowder College and Neosho and Joplin High Schools for the Crowder Fall Choral Festival, 2012



Text:

Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burning',
For this ol' world is almost gone.

Brothers don't stop prayin',
This ol' world is almost gone.

Sisters don't stop prayin',
This ol' world is almost gone.

Christian, your journey soon will be over,
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burning',
The time is drawing nigh.

-Spiritual

From the Composer:

When Cantus was putting its touring program together for 2009-2010, we wanted to encore with an arrangement of "Keep Your Lamps." I was assigned the task of coming up with the arrangement. I stalled at first - who needs another arrangement of "Keep Your Lamps" (besides us, I guess)? As I researched the tune - other verses, slightly different melodies, alternate harmonies - I realized that I had an idea for something that was a true message of hope for all of us, and it was sounding mighty powerful.

In true Cantus fashion, we talked about the new arrangement as I finished it, and it was the group who convinced me to not end after the 4th verse ("Christian, your journey...") but to add another repeat of the opening lyrics. I'm glad they did! It enabled us to finish by singing in our collective wheelhouses with two wailing solos on top. This SATB version was arranged later, keeping the same feel and structure.

- Timothy C. Takach



Reviewed as "gorgeous" (Washington Post) and "stunning" (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Keep Your Lamps

for SATB choir, SB soli, tamborine and hand drum

Spiritual

arr. Timothy C. Takach

With resolve $\text{♩} = 72$
mp

Alto

Keep your lamps trimmed and a - burn - in', Keep your
(second time only) *mp*

Tenor

mp lamps trimmed and a burn - in', Keep your

Bass

Keep your lamps trimmed and a - burn - in', Keep your
(notes in parentheses are played only on repeat)

Hand Drum

mp

4

A

lamps trimmed and a - burn - in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a - burn -

T

lamps trimmed and a - burn - in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a - burn -

B

lamps trimmed and a burn - in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a - burn -

Dr.



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7

A in', For this ol' world is al - most gone. Keep your

T in', For this ol' world is al - most gone. Keep your *mp*

B in', For this ol' world is al - most gone. Keep your

Dr.

10

S Broth - ers don't get wear - y. Broth - ers don't get wear - y Broth - ers don't get

A Mmm... Mmm...

T Mmm... Mmm...

B Mmm... Mmm...

Tamb. *p*

Dr. *p*

16

S wear - y, This ol' world is al-most gone. Sis-ters don't stop pray - in', Sis-ters don't stop

A *mf* Sis-ters don't stop pray - in', Sis-ters don't stop

T *mf* Oh...

B *mf* Oh...

Tamb. *mp*

Dr. *mp*

22

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S *f* pray - in', Sis-ters don't stop pray - in', This ol' world is al-most gone. Chris - tian, your

A *f* pray - in', Sis-ters don't stop pray - in', This ol' world is al-most gone. Chris - tian, your

T *f* Oh... Chris - tian, your

B *f* Oh... Chris - tian, your

Tamb.

Dr.

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27

S
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your

A
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your

T
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your

B
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your jour - ney soon will be o - ver, Chris-tian, your

Tamb.
mf

Dr.
mf

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31

S
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, — The time is draw - ing nigh. Keep your *f*

A
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, — The time is draw - ing nigh. Keep your *f*

T
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, — The time is draw - ing nigh. Keep your *f*

B
jour - ney soon will be o - ver, — The time is draw - ing nigh. Keep your *f*

Tamb.
f

Dr.
f

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35 *(second time only)*

S. Solo

Ah... Ah... Ah...

B. Solo

Ah... Ah... Ah...

S

lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', — Keep your

A

lamps trimmed and a-burn in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', — Keep your

T

lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', — Keep your

B

lamps trimmed and a-burn in', Keep your lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', — Keep your

Tamb.

Dr.

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39

S. Solo *Sop. solo ff* Ah...

B. Solo *Bar. solo ff* Ah...

S
lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', The time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your

A
lamps trimmed and a-burn in', The time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your

T
lamps trimmed and a-burn - in', The time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your

B
lamps trimmed and a - burn - in', The time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your

Tamb. *ff*

Dr. *ff*

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molto rit.

43

S
in', _____ The time is draw - ing nigh.

A
in', _____ The time is draw - ing nigh.

T
in', _____ The time is draw - ing nigh.

B
in', _____ The time is draw - ing nigh.

Tamb.
ff

Dr.
ff

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An excerpt from "One Boy Told Me," for SATB and piano

One Boy Told Me / Timothy C. Takach

110 *mf*

S What does mi - nus mean? I nev - er want to

A What does mi - nus mean? I nev - er want to

T What does mi - nus mean? I nev - er want to

B *f*
Mu - sic lives in - side

110

115 **Broadly**

S mi - nus you. What does mi - nus mean?

A mi - nus you. What does mi - nus mean?

T mi - nus you. What does mi - nus mean?

B my legs. It's com - ing out when I talk. What does mi - nus mean?

115

An excerpt from "One Boy Told Me," for SATB and piano

One Boy Told Me / Timothy C. Takach

121

S I nev - er want to mi - nus you. I

A I nev - er want to mi - nus you. I

T I nev - er want to mi - nus you. I

B I nev - er want to mi - nus you. I

ff *rit.* *f*

VII. Happiness

$\text{♩} = 104$

126

S do and don't love you I do and don't

A do and don't love you I do and don't

T do and don't love you I do and don't

B do and don't love you I do and don't

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Epitaph		SATB, viola
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTTBBB a cappella

Large Works

We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano