

HYMN TO THE EVENING

JOSH RODRIGUEZ

SATB & Piano

PERUSAL SCORE

Text

Soon as the sun forsook the eastern main
The pealing thunder shook the heav'nly plain;
Majestic grandeur! From the zephyr's wing,
Exhales the incense of the blooming spring.
Soft purl the streams, the birds renew their notes,
And through the air their mingled music floats.
Through all the heav'ns what beauteous dies are spread!
But the west glories in the deepest red:
So may our breasts with ev'ry virtue glow,
The living temples of our God below!
Fill'd with the praise of him who gives the light,
And draws the sable curtains of the night,
Let placid slumbers sooth each weary mind,
At morn to wake more heav'nly, more refin'd;
So shall the labours of the day begin
More pure, more guarded from the snares of sin.
Night's leaden sceptre seals my drowsy eyes,
Then cease, my song, till fair Aurora rise.

Phillis Wheatley Peters (1753—1784)

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/143633/a-hymn-to-the-evening>

Approximate Duration: 6 mins.

Performance Notes:

- 1) I have created a work with options to accommodate smaller or less experienced choirs. This flexibility is primarily focused on the bass voice section. Baritone/bass parts can be omitted (these have been indicated by smaller noteheads). The tenor line may be also doubled with baritones/basses (strengthening the upper treble line), and if alto voices are plentiful, they may double the tenor parts. Care should be given to an even distribution of voices on each part that is sung toward achieving a rich even sound throughout. With a smaller choir, altos & basses may double the lines at mm. 49-51.
- 2) Cue-sized notes throughout indicate pitches that are preferred, especially in the case of a large choir.
- 3) Piano: cue-sized notes in the piano indicate notes that may be played to support the choir. In the case of a strong or large choir, these notes may be omitted (ex. m. 37).

Program Note: *Hymn to the Evening* for SATB and piano accompaniment was composed for Jordan Cox and Missouri Baptist University on a text by Phillis Wheatley an enslaved African poet. It is a celebration of nature at dusk, a meditation on the significance of being human, and a prayer: that the quality of our character might improve for the sake of the world into which we are born.

Composer Biography: Known for his energetic rhythms, rich harmonic language, and striking colors, award-winning composer Josh Rodriguez (b. 1982) continues to gain recognition as an emerging composer and collaborator on a national and international scale. Born in Argentina and raised in Guatemala, Mexico and the United States, Rodriguez's musical imagination has been formed by this bilingual, multi-cultural heritage. He collaborates regularly with theatre and film directors and has received several notable concert commissions in a wide range of musical genres. Rodriguez serves as Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Elmhurst University. Follow him on Instagram, YouTube & [https:// www.joshrodriguezmusic.com/](https://www.joshrodriguezmusic.com/)

For Jordan Cox & Missouri Baptist University
HYMN TO THE EVENING

Phillis Wheatley

Josh Rodriguez

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano/Alto

Tenor/Bass

Piano

p *mf* *p* *mf*

pedal for smooth legato sound throughout

PERUSAL SCORE

expectantly
p *mf*

5

Soon _____ as the sun for - sook the eas - - - tern

p *mf*

Soon _____ as the sun for - sook the eas - - - tern

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A

8

p *f*

main The pea - ling thun - der shook the heav'n - - ly

p *f*

main The pea - ling thun - der shook the heav'n - - ly

p *f*

PERUSAL SCORE

11

mf *f*

plain Ma - jes - - tic grand - - -

mf *f*

plain jes - - tic grand - - -

mf *f*

HYMN TO THE EVENING

B

Musical score for measures 14-16. The system includes vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "deur from the ze - - phyr's wing, Ex -" and "deur from the ze - - phyr's ze - -". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *cresc.*. A box labeled 'B' is positioned above the first measure. The piano part includes a *8va* marking and a *mp* dynamic.

Musical score for measures 17-19. The system includes vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "hales ze - - phyr's wing, Ex -" and "- phyr's wing, ze - - phyr's wing, Ex -". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *cresc.* and *glorious, expansive*. The piano part includes a *cresc.* dynamic.

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tenderly

ff *mf* *p*

20

- hales the in - cense of the bloom - - - -

- hales of the bloom - - - -

ff *mf* *p*

mf **C**

24

- ing of spring. _____

- ing of spring. _____

mf *p* *cresc.*

27 *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Soft purl the streams the

Soft purl streams the

30 *p* *mf*

birds re - new their notes and through the

birds re - new

8va

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33 *p* *cresc.*

air ——— their — min - gled — mus - sic — floats ———

p *cresc.*

min - gled mu - sic

37 *f* *p* **D**

Through all the heav'ns what

PERUSAL SCORE

Through all the heav'ns what

f *p*

8va

HYMN TO THE EVENING

robust *f*

41

beau - teous dies are spread! But the west

beau - teous dies are spread! But the west

f

45

glo - ries in the deep - - est red

glo - ries in the deep - - est red

f

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49 (sop.) *mf* **E** *f*

So may our breasts with

(ten.) *mf* *f* (alto)

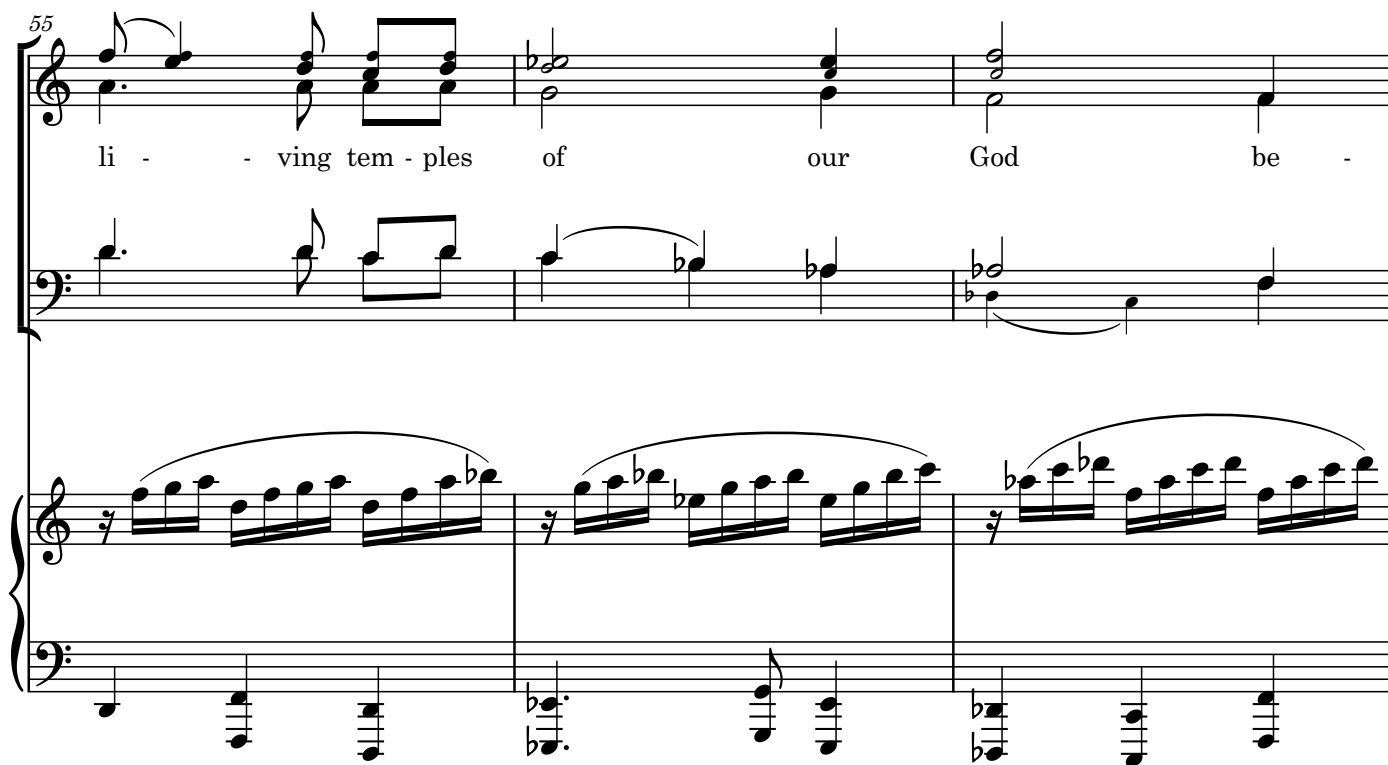
(bass)

52

ev' - - - - ry vir - - - - tue glow, the

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55



li - - ving tem - ples of our God be -

58

F *mf*



- low! *mf* Fill'd with the praise of ___

mf

61 *cresc.*

him who gives the

cresc.

ff

63 *ff* **G** *f*

light, And draws the

ff

f

ff

f

*b*₈

*b*₈

8ba

65

sa - - - - - ble cur - - - - - tains

6 6 6 6 6 6

67

rit..... *p*

of the night

6 6 6

p

8ba

H

calming, peaceful

70 *a tempo p* *mf* *p*

let — pla - cid slum - bers sooth each wea - ry mind,

p *mf* *p*

no piano

no piano

I

rit......*a tempo*

prayerful, mysterious, with awe

75 *p* *cresc.*

At morn — to wake —

p *cresc.*

morn — to wake —

mp *p*

mp *p*

with conviction

79

more heav'n - ly more re - fined so shall the

more heav'n - ly more re - fined so shall the

cresc.

PERUSAL SCORE

f la - - bours of the day

82

la - - bours day be - gin more

f

la - - bours the day be - gin more

J *hopeful*
p *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

85
 pure — more guar - ded from the snares — of sin
 pure —

K
p *mf*
 89
 Night's — lea - den — scep - - tre — seals — my —
p *mf*

93 *p* **L** *peaceful*
p
drow - sy eyes Then _____ cease my
p *p*
Then _ cease my
p *mf* *p*

98 *mf* *rit*..... *p*
song _____ till fair _____ Au - ro - - - ra rise
mf *p*
song _____ till fair _____ Au - ro - - - ra rise
mf *p* (no piano)