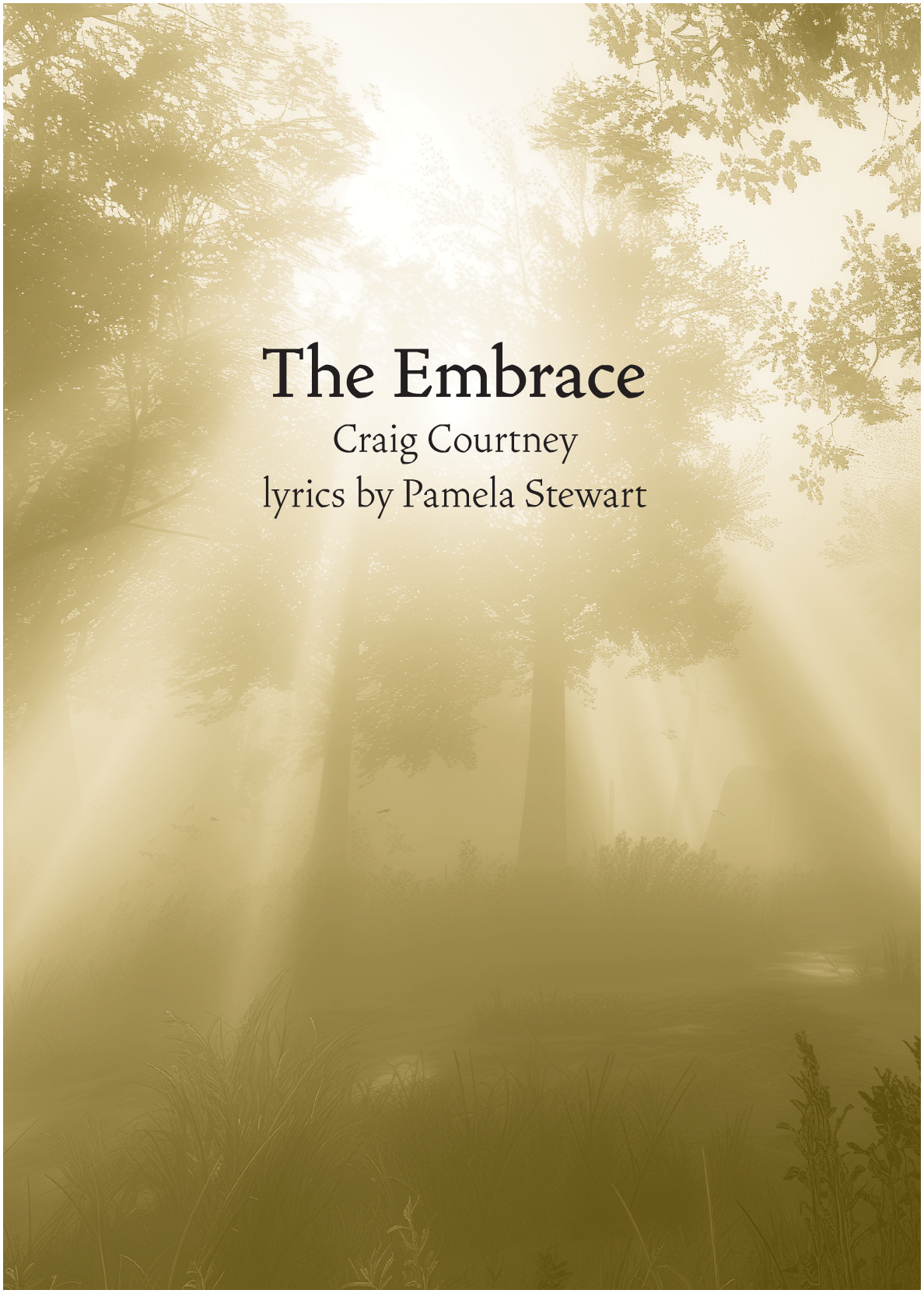

The Embrace

Craig Courtney

lyrics by Pamela Stewart

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The concept for this text was to begin with a Latin phrase and then expand upon its meaning in the context of divine embrace. I chose the words *Vocatus aut non vocatus, Deus adest, Ades,* which translate Called or uncalled, God is present. You are here.

I used present tense almost exclusively throughout to illustrate God's presence here, now, and always. Scripture speaks repeatedly of this omnipresence:

> *I am with you always, even to the end of the world.* (Matthew 28:20)
>
> *And he will be called Immanuel, God with us.* (Matthew 1:23)
>
> *Where can I flee from your presence?* (Psalm 139:7b)
>
> *Am I only a God nearby . . . and not a God far away? Do I not fill heaven and earth?* (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

I used future tense for only one phrase, The mortal coil will finish turning. This temporal life will end; however, God's presence remains eternal.

The all-encompassing embrace emerged as an image of God with us—a timeless dance between the sacred and the ordinary.

— Pamela Stewart

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Commissioned for Illuminati and director, Jordan Saul, in celebration of song, spirit, and inclusion — made possible by a gift from Allen Proctor

The Embrace

For SATB Choir and Piano

Pamela Stewart
(BMI)

CRAIG COURTNEY
(ASCAP)

Part-dominant rehearsal tracks for BP2407 available only at beckenhorstpress.com.
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