

The Embrace

TTBB

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

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 TTBB Choir and Piano

Pamela Stewart
(BMI)

CRAIG COURTNEY
(ASCAP)

Optional Introduction (m. 1-9)

Freely

TB unis. *mp*

Vo - ca - tus aut non vo - ca - tus, De - us a - dest, De - us

a - dest. Vo - ca - tus aut non vo - ca - tus, a -

des.

Tenderly ♩ = 76

mp

8 9 10 11

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BP2422

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rit. *mp* *a tempo*

Called or un-called, God, you are pres - ent with-in the

rit. *a tempo*

air, the breath I take; the arms a-round this fleet - ing

tem - ple that you draw close in the em-brace.

T.

B.

tem - ple that you draw close in the em-brace.

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

mp

With-in the vis - i - ble, the hid - den with-in the

mp

With-in the vis - i - ble, the hid - den with-in the

21 22 23

small - est win-dow of time; and in the hush, a qui - et

small - est win-dow of time; and in the hush, a qui - et

24 25 26

poco rit.

whis - per: "Come, join in the dance that is

whis - per: "Come, join in the dance that is

poco rit.

27 28 29

a tempo

mine." _____

mine." _____ *mf* *sempre espressivo, freely*

With-in this world, there is an -

a tempo

mf

30 31 32

mf

A sense of

oth - er to o-ver - look or be em-braced: A sense of

33 34 35

won - der in the sim - ple, a beau-ty in the com - mon -

won - der in the sim - ple, a beau-ty in the com - mon -

36 37 38

place. The moon re - flect - ed on the wa - ter, the scar-let

place. The moon re - flect - ed on the wa - ter, the scar-let

39 40 41

note a red - bird sings, a sa-cred pause with - in the

note a red - bird sings, a sa-cred pause with - in the

42 43 44

rit. flur - ry a - mid the dance of dai - ly things. *mp*

flur - ry a - mid the dance of dai - ly things. *mp*

rit. 3 3 3 3 *mp*

45 46 47

a tempo

Musical notation for measures 48-51, vocal line with rests.

a tempo

Musical notation for measures 48-51, piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 52-54, vocal line with rests.

Musical notation for measures 52-54, piano accompaniment with triplets.

Musical notation for measures 55-57, vocal line with lyrics "The mor-tal".

Musical notation for measures 55-57, piano accompaniment with triplets and "rit." marking.

a tempo

8 coil will fin - ish turn - ing, un - rav - 'ling as it un -

coil will fin - ish turn - ing, un - rav - 'ling as it un -

a tempo

f

58 59 60

8 winds, and yet the dance re - mains e - ter - nal, the ev - er -

winds, and yet the dance re - mains e - ter - nal, the ev - er -

61 62 63

8 pres - ent hand in mine. The arm at

poco rit.

pres - ent hand in mine. The arm at

poco rit.

64 65 66

a tempo

rest up - on the shoul - der, the soul met ful - ly in the

rest up - on the shoul - der, the soul met ful - ly in the

a tempo

rit. *a tempo* *mp*

gaze. _____ The or-di-

gaze. _____ The or-di-

rit. *a tempo* *mp*

na - ry and the ho - ly di-vine-ly held in

na ry and the ho - ly di-vine-ly held in

74 75 76

rit.

one em - brace.

one em - brace.

77 78 79

Optional Coda

Freely

TB unis. *mp*

Vo - ca - tus aut non vo - ca - tus, De - us

80 81 82

keep pedal down to the end of the piece

a - dest, De - us a - dest. Vo - ca - tus aut non vo -

rit.

ca - tus, a - des.

83 84

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