

From the Arranger

Let There Be Peace on Earth was written by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller in 1955 and is usually associated with the Christmas season. Beautiful music is often born out of loss and suffering. Such was the case with this piece. Jackson, who had been suicidal following the failure of a marriage, wrote the song when she experienced what she called the "life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love."

My goal as an arranger was to be guided by simplicity in the creation of a visual and aural experience of the spreading of peace. To that end, a soloist begins the anthem and as each successive recipient of that peace shares it with others, singers, choirs and audience members are added so that one has the sense of an exponential accumulation of peace that covers and changes the world. The soloist returns to sing the final phrase as a reminder that peace begins with one person. – Craig Courtney

From the Editor

Humanity has been grappling with the concept of peace since the dawn of history. When we think of peace today, certain ideas tend to come to mind: A setting uncluttered by noise, a region free of violence, or perhaps a home where family members stop their bickering. These images are striking in that they emphasize something that isn't there: conflict, war, tension, sounds, commotion. But peace is more than a lack of something. It is also a greeting: *Peace be with you*; and a benediction: *Go now in peace*; and a gift: *Peace I leave with you*. What if peace is not an absence, but a presence?

The choral ensembles at Capital University posed that question musically with each of their concert programs during the 2013-14 academic year. A commitment to promote peace through song was the impetus to ask Craig Courtney to arrange a choral setting of the beloved *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. The familiarity and simplicity of this song, together with Craig's beautiful arrangement, creates the effect of an ever-expanding community committing to peace. Each time we performed it on our concerts throughout the year, our conviction to be agents of peace in our lives and the world was renewed. – Dr. Lynda Hasseler

Written for the 2013 Capital University Christmas Festival

Let There Be Peace on Earth

For SATB Choir, Piano and Optional String Quartet* **

Words and Music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson Miller

Arranged by CRAIG COURTNEY

(ASCAP)

Very freely ♩ = ca. 80

Piano introduction for measures 1-5. The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a piano (mp) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. Measure 5 ends with a ritardando (rit.) marking.

Solo ♩ = ca. 94
mp a tempo

Vocal solo and piano accompaniment for measures 6-10. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The tempo is marked *mp a tempo*. The lyrics are: "Let there be peace on earth, and".

Vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 11-15. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "let it be - gin with me; let". A triple bar line (***) is placed above the vocal line at the end of measure 15.

* Parts and score for 2 violins, viola and cello (CU1030A) are available.

** Parts and score for full orchestra (CU1030B) are available.

*** An additional soloist may be added in measures 15-22.

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there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to

16 17 18 19 20

Small Ensemble

be. With God our cre - a - tor,

21 22 23 24 25

all are we. chil - dren all are we. all are we.

26 27 28 29 30

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect

unis.

31 32 33 34 35

har - mo - ny. Let peace be -

rit. *unis.* *Full Choir mp a tempo*

men in falsetto through measure 46

36 37 38 39(h) 40

gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

41 42 43 44 45

With ev - ery step I take, — let

With ev - ery

46 47 48 49 50

unis. ♩ = ca. 98

this be my sol - emn vow: — to take each

unis.

♩ = ca. 98

51 52 53 54 55

cresc. poco a poco

mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal -

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

56 57 58 59 60