

Commissioned by the Wolf River Singers, Ben J. Legett, Director,  
through the Choral Commissioning Project and a gift from Bob and Deb Cameron in memory of Edwin K. Dimes  
Premiere performance: March 6, 2010, Germantown, Tennessee

# The Great Trees

## 5. The Timbered Choir

for SATB Chorus, Clarinet and Piano

Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

Gwyneth Walker

**Stately** ♩ = 72 (hum) **pp** barely audible

Tenor

Bass

*p* mm.

Great Trees, great trees, great trees,

**Stately** ♩ = 72

Piano

*p*

Ped.

6 (hum) **pp** barely audible

A

T *p* mm. div.

Slow - ly, slow-ly they re - turn To the small wood-land let a -

B *pp*

great trees, great trees, great trees, great trees,

A

(Ped.)

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10 **B** *poco accel.*

S

A *p*  
Great \_\_\_\_\_ trees, out-spread-ing and bright, A - pos-tles of the liv-ing light. -

T *unis. pp*  
lone: slow - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

B  
great trees, great \_\_\_\_\_ trees, great trees, great \_\_\_\_\_ trees, *poco accel.*

**B**

(Ped.)

14 *(accel.)* **C** Slightly faster ♩ = 80

S *p* *mp*  
light, \_\_\_\_\_ Pa - tient as stars, they build in air Tier af-ter tier a

A *mp*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pa - tient as stars, they build in air Tier af-ter tier a

T *mp*  
slow - ly, Pa - tient as stars, they build in air Tier af-ter tier a

B *mp*  
great trees, great \_\_\_\_\_ trees, great trees, great \_\_\_\_\_ trees,

*(accel.)* **C** Slightly faster ♩ = 80

*mp*

(Ped.)

18

S tim - bered choir, Stout beams up - hold - ing weight - less grace Of

A tim - bered choir, Stout beams up - hold - ing weight - less grace Of

T tim - bered choir, Stout beams up - hold, up - hold - ing weight - less grace Of

B great trees, *unis.* Stout beams up - hold, up - hold - ing weight - less grace Of

21 *poco accel.*

**D** Faster ♩ = 88 *mf*

S song, a bless - ing on this place. They stand in wait - ing

A song, a bless - ing on this place. They stand in wait - ing

T song, of song, a bless - ing on this place. They stand,

B song, of song, a bless - ing on this place. They stand in wait - ing

*poco accel.* **D** Faster ♩ = 88 *mf*

Red.

24

S all a - round, Up - ris - ings of their na - tive ground. *rit.* *div.*

A all a - round, Up - ris - ings of their na - tive ground.

T 8 — Up - ris - ings,

B all a - round, Up - ris - ings of their na - tive ground.

*rit.*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

27 **E Slower** *f* *mf* *accel.*

S Down - com - ings of the dis - tant light; They are the ad - vent they a - wait.

A Down - com - ings of the dis - tant light; They are the ad - vent they a - wait.

T 8 Down, of the light; They are the ad - vent they a - wait.

B Down, the light; They are the ad - vent they a - wait.

**E Slower** *f* *mf* *accel.*

Ped. 3 3 3 *mf*

**F** Faster ♩ = 88

30 (accel.)

Cl. *mf* *f*

S *p*

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal parts and the Clarinet part. The Clarinet part starts at measure 30 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an acceleration marking. It features a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all play piano (*p*) and have long, sustained notes with phrasing slurs.

**F** Faster ♩ = 88

(accel.)

*p* *mf* *f*

(Ped.)

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 30-33. The right hand has a melodic line with triplets and a crescendo from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*). The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with triplets. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present at the beginning and end of the system.

33

Cl. *mf*

*mf* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the Clarinet and Piano parts for measures 33-36. The Clarinet part starts at measure 33 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a melodic line with triplets. The Piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand, with dynamics ranging from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to forte (*f*) and back to mezzo-forte (*mf*).

\* Grace notes precede the beat.



43

Cl. *mf*

S ben - e - dict - ion said

A ben - e - dict - ion said

T *div.* O - ver the liv - ing,

B *div.* O - ver the liv - ing and the

O - ver the liv - ing and the

*Ped.*

45

Cl. *f*

S *f* dead. In fall their bright - ened leaves, re - leased, *unis.*

A *f* dead. In fall their bright - ened leaves, re - leased, *unis.*

T *f* dead. In fall, Fly *unis.*

B *f* dead. In fall, Fly *unis.*

*Ped.*

47

Cl. *tr*

S

A

T *div.* *unis.*

B

down the wind, and we are pleased \_\_\_\_\_ To

down the wind, and we are pleased \_\_\_\_\_ To

*6* *6* *6*

*6* *6* *6*

*Red.* *Red.*

48

Cl. *rit.* *p* *tr* *accel. poco a poco*

S *div. p sub.* *(p) unis.*

A *div.* *p sub.* *(p) unis.*

T *div.* *p sub.* *unis. (p)*

B *div. p sub.* *unis. (p)*

walk on ra-diance, a - mazed. O light come down to earth, O

walk on ra-diance, a - mazed. O light come down to earth, O

walk on ra-diance, a - mazed. to earth, \_\_\_\_\_ O

walk on ra-diance, a - mazed. to earth, \_\_\_\_\_ O

*rit.* *accel. poco a poco*

*p* *6*

*6*



50 *(accel.)*

Cl. *mf*

S *div. cresc.*

A light come down to earth, O light come down to earth, be

T *cresc.*

8 light, to earth, O light, to earth, be,

B *cresc.*

light, to earth, O light, to earth, be,

*(accel.)*

*cresc.*

6 6 6 6

I **Faster** ♩ = 88 *in celebration*

52

Cl. *f*

S *f*

A praised, O light, be praised, O light, be

T *f*

8 O light, be praised, O light, be praised,

B *f* *div.* *unis.* *div.*

O light, be praised, O light, be praised,

I **Faster** ♩ = 88 *in celebration*

*cresc.*

54

Cl. 

S 

A 

T 

B 



57 *rit.* *f* *tr* *tr* *ff*

S *div.*  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ praised!

A  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ praised!

T *div.*  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ praised!

B  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ praised!

*rit.* *ff*

*Ped.* *Ped.*

October 18, 2009  
Braintree, Vermont  
3' 15"