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The Quiet Center

I began composing *The Quiet Center* in November 2016. I finished the collection on January 20, 2017 and recorded it in February. It was my way of seeking a quiet haven amidst the turbulence affecting our country, although I sincerely hope that by turning in, I can—through my music—reflect out. The uncomplicated piano solos are mostly quiet, introspective pieces, suitable for the quietly joyful expectation of Advent and Christmas. Each piece is approximately three minutes in length except *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, which is about four.

Several pieces combine two hymn tunes. For example, *Creator of the Stars of Night* mixes CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM with HYFRYDOL, a tune many congregations sing with the Advent hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” I have associated the folk tune MORNING SONG (CONSOLATION) with the text “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns,” but a recent hymnal uses the tune five times for various texts. I combined it with the spiritual *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*.

I hope that these pieces will find a place under your fingers and into the hearts of your listeners.

—Thomas Keesecker

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A complete CD recording is available from MorningStar Music, MSM-15-843CD.

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Morning Song / Motherless Child

Thomas Keesecker

Expressively (♩ = ca. 80–84)

p *cresc.* *without Red.*

rit. *mf* *a tempo* *with Red.*

a bit slower *mp* *Red.*

mf *a tempo*

Tunes: *MORNING SONG*, Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1830 (PD); *MOTHERLESS CHILD*, Spiritual (PD).
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Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth / Mendelssohn

Thomas Keesecker

Sincerely (♩ = ca. 74)

mp

with Ped.

stretch

5

stretch

9

mf

13

Tunes: *ABERYSTWYTH*, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903, and written in 1876 (PD); *MENDELSSOHN*, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847, and written in 1840 (PD).
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I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

Thomas Keesecker

With rubato, like dripping icicles (♩ = ca. 120–126)

mf

Red.

5

9

simile

13

17

Tune: *KINGSFOLD*, Traditional English (PD).

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Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros' / Dona nobis pacem

Expressively (♩ = ca. 88)

Thomas Keesecker

5 *a tempo*
mp

9

13

17

Tunes: *ES IST EIN' ROS'*, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1599 (PD); *DONA NOBIS PACEM*, Traditional (PD).
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While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Christmas / Suo Gân

Thomas Keesecker

Like a folk ballad (♩ = ca. 72)

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes the instruction "with Ped." (pedal). The second system starts at measure 4. The third system starts at measure 8 and includes the markings "rit." (ritardando) and "a tempo". The fourth system starts at measure 12. The score features a mix of chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass staves.

Tunes: *CHRISTMAS*, George Frederick Handel, 1685–1759, and written in 1728 (PD); *SUO GÂN*, Traditional Welsh (PD).
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Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum / Hyfrydol

Thomas Keesecker

Expressively (♩ = ca. 96)

mf

with Ped.

6

12

18

rit.

24

Simply, a bit faster (♩ = ca. 120)

f

Tunes: *CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM*, 9th-century Sarum Chant (PD); *HYFRYDOL*, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887, and written in 1831 (PD).
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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Thomas Keesecker

Slow, with a tinge of sadness (♩ = ca. 56–60)

p

with Ped.

mp

mp

stretch

Tune: *VENI EMMANUEL*, 15th-century French Chant (PD).

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The Quiet Center

Thomas Keesecker

Like a sunrise (♩ = ca. 69)

4

7

11

mf

f *mp*

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