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TEXT

I.

O Wisdom,  
Sophia's child,  
and Mary's too,  
bring us back to you.

O Adonai,  
set us free  
of fear, despair,  
misogyny.

O Justice Flower  
of Jesse tree,  
uproot our hatreds.  
Wash us clean  
in just-reign waters,  
plant us deep in Thee.

O Key of David,  
open heaven's gate,  
unlock, unblock  
a captive church  
too long enthralled  
by hate.

O Radiant Dawn,  
light the way  
of all who long to preach,  
to teach,  
to consecrate  
heavenly hosts  
of God's indwelling.

O Emmanuel,  
strengthen weary arms,  
steady trembling knees,  
bring surcease of sorrow.

O Advent Light,  
dispel death's dark shadow.  
Awaken a waiting world  
to life's fresh-blessed tomorrow.

—from "O Antiphons"

II.

I wait  
with quickened hope  
for crooked paths  
to straighten,

with tough-sould  
anguish,  
while blinded  
keepers of the keys  
shut out  
God's own.

(If such a thing  
were possible.)

I wait,  
and will not be  
dismayed.

For tiny shoot  
of Jesse tree  
took root in me  
to love,  
transform,  
give sight,  
set free.

—"Isaiah 61"

III.

You  
who make  
wastelands bloom  
and water flow  
from stony parapets,  
shower now  
this hard landscape  
with freely  
given grace,  
so poor  
deserted  
chosen ones  
can finally rest  
in amber waving fields  
of tender justice.  
You,  
do now  
something  
new.

—"Emmanuel"

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# Advent Reflections

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Harp or Piano\*

from "O Antiphons"  
Christine Schenk, CSJ

Joseph Gregorio

## I.

Gently; with humility (♩ = 80)

(♩ = ♩)

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Harp

7

S  
A

Altos *p*

O Wis-dom, So-phi-a's child, and Ma-ry's

Hp.

14

A

too, bring us back, bring us back to you.

B

*mp*

O A-do-nai,

Hp.

*mp*

\* As harp is the preferred accompaniment instrument for *Advent Reflections*, the present edition contains harp accompaniment; the corresponding harp part, 8490B, is sold separately. However, in the absence of harp, the piece may be successfully performed instead with the piano accompaniment found in the piano/choral score, 8490.

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19

B *set us free of fear, de - spair, mi - sog - - - y -*

Hp.

25

S *O Jus-tice Flower of Jes-se tree, up - root our ha-treds. Wash us*

B *ny.*

Hp. *mf*

29

S *clean in just - reign wa - ters, plant us deep in Thee.*

T *O Key -*

Hp. *mf*

33

T *of Da-vid, o - pen heav - en's gate, un - lock, un - block a cap - tive church too long en -*

Hp. *poco f*

## II.

## "Isaiah 61"

Christine Schenk, CSJ

Slowly; with determination ( $\text{♩} = 63$ )

Soprano *p* *mf*  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Alto *p* *mf*  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Tenor *p* *mf*  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Bass *p* *mf*  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd  
(Harp tacet Movement II)

6 S *mp* *ff* (short) *pp*  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

A *mp* *ff* (short) *pp*  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

T *mp* *ff* (short) *pp*  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

B *mp* *ff* (short) *pp*  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

## Pressing forward

11

*poco* *p* *mf*

S such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, I wait, and will

A such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

T such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

B such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

16

*f* *mp* *poco cresc.* 3

S not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

A not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

T not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

B not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

As at first ( $\bullet = \bullet$ )

21

*poco cresc.* 3 *p* *pp*

S root in me to love, trans - form, give sight, set free.

A root in me to love, trans - form, give sight, set free.

T root in me to love, trans - form, give sight, set free.

B root in me to love, trans - form, give sight, set free.

Slowing until the end

“Emmanuel”  
Christine Schenk, CSJ

Flowing; flexible throughout (♩ = 80)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Harp

*mp* gently; flexibly

5

S *mp*  
You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

A *mp*  
You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

T *mp*  
You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

B *mp*  
You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

Hp.

9

S  
flow from ston - - - y par - a - pets, —

A  
flow from ston - - - y par - a - pets, —

T  
8  
flow from ston - - - y par - a - pets, —

B  
flow from ston - - - y par - a - pets, —

Hp.  
3 3 3 3

12

S

A

T  
8

B

Hp.  
*mp sub.*  
*cresc.*  
3