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May Christ Support Us
SATB Choir

Michael Joncas

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EXCELLENCE IN SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

May Christ Support Us
(A Prayer of Cardinal Newman)

Michael Joncas

FROM THE COLLECTION
O Sacred Banquet
MP3 Album #30133523

composed in honor of Dr. Don Briel for the celebration of the 20th anniversary
of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, October 2013

May Christ Support Us

(A Prayer of Cardinal Newman)

Blessed John Henry Newman (1801–1890), alt.

Michael Joncas

Very slow, rubato (♩ = ca. 75)
mp

Soprano
Alto

May Christ sup - port us all the day

Tenor
Bass

mp

4

long, till the shad - ows length - en, and the eve - ning

8

comes, and the bus - y world is hushed,

p

12

mp

and the fe - ver of life is o - ver, and our

mp

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This piece may be sung a whole step higher.
For smaller choirs, omit the cue-sized notes. See Composer Notes on page 4.

16 *mf* *mp*

work is done.

mf *mp*

20 *p* *mp*

Then in his mer - cy, then in his mer - cy may he
Then in his mer - cy, mer - cy, then in his mer - cy may he

p *mp*

24 *mf* *mp*

give us a safe lodg - ing, and a ho - ly rest, and

mf *mp*

28 *p* *pp*

peace at the last, and peace at the last, and

p *pp*

32 *ppp*

peace at the last.

ppp

Composer Notes

“May Christ Support Us (A Prayer of Cardinal Newman)” was written in 2013 for a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Catholic Studies Program at the University of St. Thomas. It is dedicated to Dr. Don Briel, the founder and long-time director of the Center for Catholic Studies at UST. In addition to being passionately committed to Catholic Studies in higher education, Dr. Briel is a renowned scholar of John Henry Cardinal Newman’s writings and he has frequently taught courses on Newman at UST and elsewhere. It therefore seemed especially appropriate to me that the text of this anthem be taken from Newman’s writings. It was sung for the first time as a post-Communion anthem at the Mass marking the twentieth anniversary celebration on 26 October 2013.

My original setting was a whole step higher and, while basically SATB, took advantage of the UST Liturgical Choir’s capabilities to create occasional *divisi* in each voice-line. I was persuaded by the OCP editorial staff that lowering the composition to G minor/B-flat major would make the composition more user-friendly for parish choirs. In addition, Craig Kingsbury did a masterful job of reducing the *divisi* so choirs that are strictly SATB may still perform the composition by singing only the regular-sized note heads, while choirs that could perform the composition in its original voicing would add the *divisi* found in the cue-sized notes.

While “May Christ Support Us” could be sung in a variety of liturgical settings, it would be especially appropriate on All Saints/All Souls, as a response to the Word of God at Evening Prayer or Night Prayer, at celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick, or at the Final Commendation and/or Committal Service at funerals. It should be sung quite slowly with strict attention to the dynamics so that the text can shine forth in all its beauty.

—Michael Joncas

