Two Disciples on a Journey
Michael Joncas

FROM THE COLLECTION
O Sacred Banquet
Octavo Packet #30133521
CD #30133522
Composer Notes

“Two Disciples on a Journey” is inspired by Luke 24:13–35, the famous story of the Risen Jesus’ encounter with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The first three stanzas re-tell the story of Cleopas and his companion (wife?) who have an extended interchange with the Risen Christ. Many commentators have noticed that the movement of the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus mirrors the structure of our normal Eucharistic celebration: gathering in the light of present experience, searching the scriptures under Jesus’ tutelage to see what illumination they can offer, sharing a meal with a distinctive blessing, and being sent on mission. Stanza four outlines the first three of these elements and stanza five turns to prayer, asking that we may perceive Jesus even when he is hidden from our earthly sight. The conclusion of the final stanza acknowledges Jesus’ promise of presence “till the end of the age” in the commissioning scene that concludes the Gospel of Matthew.

—Michael Joncas
Two Disciples on a Journey
Based on Luke 24:13–35
SHADY LANE, 87 87 D
Michael Joncas

INTRO Reflectively (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 80} \))

Organ

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VERSES 1, 2: 1: All unison mf; 2: Soprano/Alto mp

1. Two disciples on a journey leave Jerusalem behind,
2. Two disciples on a journey listen to the stranger’s word:

1. meet a stranger, bid him welcome, share what weighs upon their mind:
2. “Oh my foolish, dear companions, slow to claim what you have heard,

1. “One we claimed as God’s Messiah died betrayed and crucified,
2. know that Moses and the prophets testify concerning Christ—

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1. and the hopes we placed upon him with his death have also died."
2. though God’s Chosen, he must suffer, then to glory he will rise."

VERSE 3: Tenor/Bass

3. Two disciples on a journey seek a shelter for the night,
3. press the stranger join their table at the fading of the light.

3. Taking bread, he says the blessing, breaks and gives them each a share.

3. Then their burning hearts acknowledge Jesus’ presence with them there.
VERSE 4: SATB, *a cappella

4. We disciples on our journey gather in this place of prayer.

4. find the Word of God illumining fears and dreams our spirits bear.

4. Then around our Master’s table for the journey we are fed.

4. come to taste his living presence in the breaking of the bread.

*Organ may double choir parts if needed.
VERSE 5: All

5. Jesus, stay_with_us, we beg. O stay with us.
5. Keep us yearning for your presence till we reunite with you.

5. Here our eyes may not perceive, hidden from earthly gaze,

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5. yet our faith clings to you, clings all your days.

5. yet our faith clings to your promise: "I am with you all your days."

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Two Disciples on a Journey
Two Disciples on a Journey
(Hymn Version)

Based on Luke 24:13–35

SHADY LANE, 87 87 D
Michael Joncas

Reflectively (\(= \text{ca. 80)}

1. Two disci-ples on a jour-ney leave Je-ru-sa-lem be-hind,
2. Two disci-ples on a jour-ney listen to the strang-es' word:
3. Two disci-ples on a jour-ney seek a shel-ter for the night,
4. We disci-ples on our jour-ney gather in this place of prayer,
5. Je-sus, stay with us, we beg you, on the jour-neys we pur-sue.

1. meet a strang-er, bid him wel-come, share what weighs up on their mind:
2. "O my fool-ish, dear com-pa-nions, slow to claim what you have heard,
3. press the strang-er join their ta-ble at the fading of the light.
4. find the Word of God il-lu-mining fears and dreams our spir-its bear.
5. Keep us yearning for your pres-ence till we re-uni-te with you.

1. "One we claimed as God's Mes-si-ah died be-trayed and cru-ci-fied
2. know that Mo-ses and the proph-ets tes-ti-fy con-cern-ing Christ--
3. Tak-ing bread, he says the bless-ing, breaks and gives them each a share.
4. Then a-round our Mas-ter's ta-ble for the jour-ney we are fed.
5. Here our eyes may not per-ceive you, hid-den from our earth-ly gaze,

1. and the hopes we placed up on him with his death have al-so died."
2. though God's Cho-sen, he must suf-fer, then to glo-ry he will rise."
3. Then their burn-ing hearts ac-knowl-edge Je-sus' pres-ence with them there.
4. come to taste his liv-ing pres-ence in the break-ing of the bread.
5. yet our faith clings to your prom ise: "I am with you all your days."

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Assembly Edition

TWO DISCIPLES ON A JOURNEY
Michael Joncas


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