Preview

We Shall Know Him When He Comes

Angela Birkhead-Flight

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Edition #60000525

for Cheviot United Methodist Church

We Shall Know Him When He Comes

Inspired by the *O Antiphons,*
and *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes,* anon.
Adapted by Angela Birkhead-Flight

Angela Birkhead-Flight
with refrain fr. VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

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*Optional solo through measure 17

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*Optional solo

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SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

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Composer Notes

This piece was inspired by a short, anonymous poem that includes the lines:

> But His coming known shall be
> By the holy harmony
> His coming makes in thee

I expanded on and modernized the language of the poem to draw a sharp contrast between the fleeting power of earthly kings throughout history, with their pomp, power, and violence, and the lasting peace that Jesus offers us. Referencing the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as well as Isaiah 9:6 reminds us of God's promise to send his Son.

In the introductory phrases, where the instruments have the main melody, the choir mimics wind that begins with a gentle breeze and crescendos until the storm breaks in measures 7 and 8, leading to a feeling of clear light in measure 10. The choir should still be ***f*** in that measure, with the keyboard dropping back to ***mp*** after the initial chord. When the choir ends their note, the piano should seem to emerge from the storm in an expression of peace following the rain.

The transition leading to the key change should express joy. The music in measure 36 for the words "Rejoice! Rejoice!" mimics tower bells and should be sung in a bell-like manner, leading to legato singing for the rest of the transition. The piece ends peacefully, with lush harmonies emphasizing the "holy harmonies" mentioned in the text.

I hope you will sing this piece as a prayer—an invitation for Christ to renew your own heart with his gift of peace and harmony.

—Angela Birkhead-Flight

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