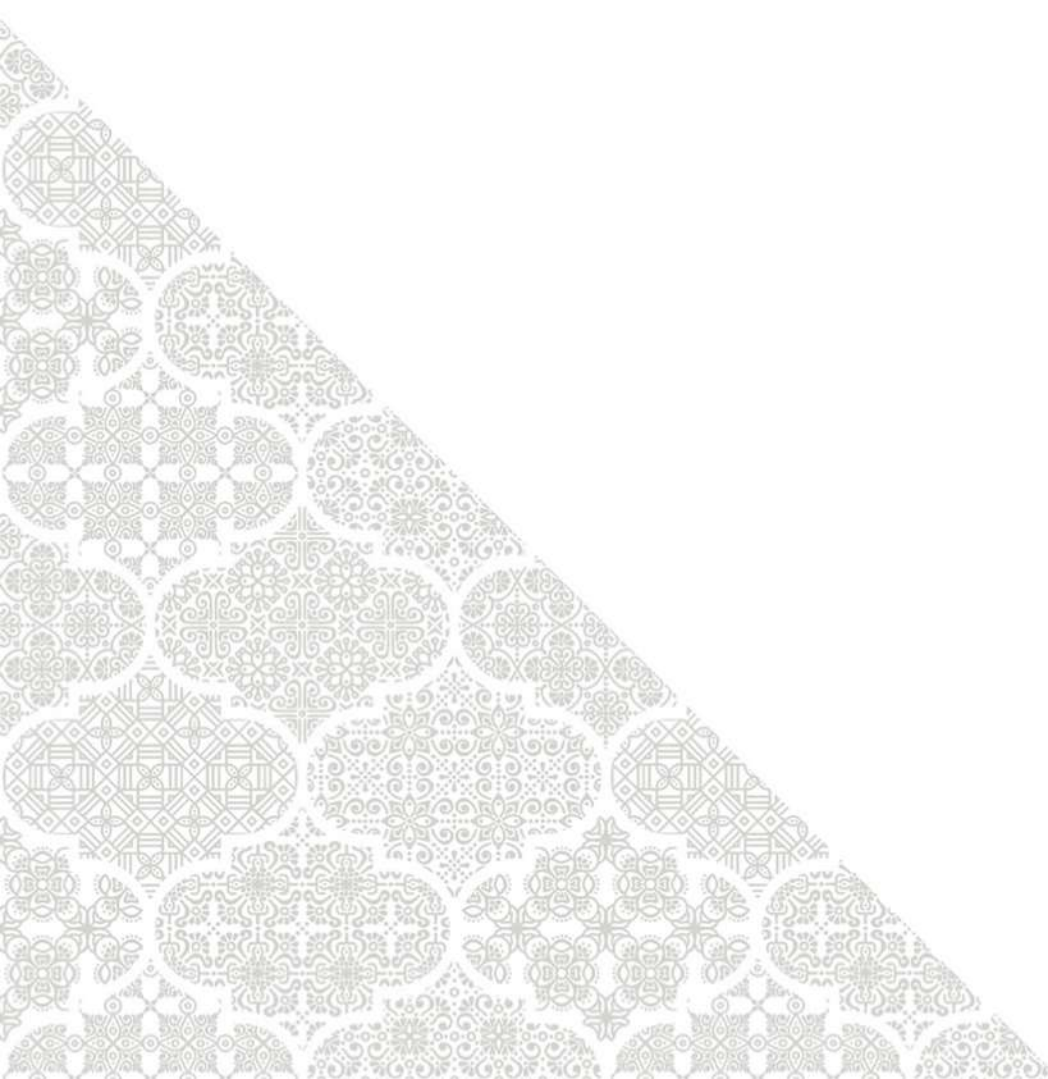


KNT1115

Kenneth Tay

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

SATB divisi
a cappella



MUZIKSEA

TEXT

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

George Matheson (1842-1906)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

In larger ensembles, some sopranos can be reallocated to alto to support to the melody from Bars 29-47, and from Bars 70-86.

PROGRAMME NOTES

George Matheson was a Scottish theologian and preacher who gradually lost vision from the age of 20. The text was written in 1882, in response to "severe mental suffering" on the night of his sister's marriage. We know little about whether the pain he felt was triggered by losing his sister to marriage, or by an earlier memory of his fiancé who broke off their engagement after learning about his impending blindness. Yet, this hymn text was written in the midst of the feeling of loss, and serves as a powerful message of an unending, divine love. My composition aims to bring new life to the text, as well as to reflect on the blessings that those of us able-sighted can enjoy – oceans, sunshines, and rainbows.

12 May 2023
ed. 28 September 2023

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

SATB divisi a cappella

George Matheson (1842-1906)

Kenneth Tay (b. 1992)

Gently flowing, poco rubato ♩ = 80

p *mp*

Soprano
O love, O light,

Alto
O love, O light,

Tenor
O love, O light,

Bass
O love, O light,

Piano (rehearsal only)


7 *mf* *mp*

S
O joy, O cross, O love that will not

A
O joy, O cross, O love that will not

T
O joy, O cross, O love that will not

B
O joy, O cross, O love that will not

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13

S let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in thee. I *mf*

A let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in thee. I *mf*

T let me go, rest my wea - ry soul in thee.

B let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in thee. I *mf*

19

S give thee back the life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its

A give thee back the life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its

T *mf* I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its

B give thee back the life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its

25

gentle f

S flow may rich - er full - er be. O _____

A flow may rich - er full - er be. O light that fol-lows all my

T flow rich - er full - er be. O light that fol-lows all

B flow may rich - er full - er be. O light that fol-lows all my

31

S light a torch heart

A way, I yield my flick' - ring torch to thee. My heart re-stores its

T my way yield my flick' - ring torch to thee. My heart re-stores its

B way, I yield my flick' - ring torch to thee. My heart re-stores its

37

S
sun blaze

A
bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may

T
bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its day

B
bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may

43

S
bright - er be. O light,

A
bright - er, fair - er be. O light,

T
bright - er, fair - er be. O light,

B
bright - er, fair - er be. O light,

mp

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61

S *mf* and feel the promise is not

A *mp* I trace the rain-bow through the rain *mf* oh

T thee. oh

B thee. oh

65

S *f* vain *mf* lift

A *f* that morn shall tear - less be. *mf* O cross that lift-est

T *f* that morn shall tear - less be. *mf* O cross that lift-est

B *f* that morn shall tear - less be. *mf* O cross that lift-est

71

S
up _____ my _____

A
up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee. I

T
up my head I dare not ask to fly from thee.

B
up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee. I

77

S
life _____ glo - - -

A
lay in dust, life's glo - ry dead, and from the ground there

T
I lay in dust, life's glo - ry dead, and from the ground there

B
lay in dust, life's glo - ry dead, and from the ground there

82

S *ry*
ry end - less be.

A
 blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

T
 blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

B
 blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

87

mp **rit. al fine.**
 S O love that will not let me go.

mp
 A O love that will not let me go.

mp
 T O love, rest my soul.

mp
 B O love, rest my soul.