

THE WHEEL

for SATB Chorus and Piano
with optional Violin

Poem by
WENDELL BERRY
Music by
BRUCE TRINKLEY

THE WHEEL

*At the first strokes of the fiddle bow
the dancers rise from their seats.
The dance begins to shape itself
in the crowd, as couples join,
and couples join couples, their movement
together lightening their feet.
They move in the ancient circle
of the dance. The dance and the song
call each other into being. Soon
they are one – rapt in a single
rapture, so that even the night
has its clarity, and time
is the wheel that brings it round.*

*In this rapture the dead return.
Sorrow is gone from them.
They are light. They step
into the steps of the living
and turn with them in the dance
in the sweet enclosure
of the song, and timeless
is the wheel that brings it round.*

Wendell Berry (b. 1934), author of poetry, fiction, and essays, writes from and about his farm in rural Kentucky. He has been concerned with global challenges to the environment, especially the plight of small farms in the world. He is a staunch advocate of the value of community: “Essential wisdom accumulates in the community much as fertility builds in the soil.”

The Wheel

For SATB Chorus and Piano with optional Violin and String Bass

Wendell Berry
from *The Wheel* (1982)*

Bruce Trinkley

Slow dance $\text{♩} = 72$

Soprano *mp* At the first strokes____ of the fid - dle bow____

Tenor *mp* At the first strokes____ of the fid - dle bow____

Piano *p* *mp* *p*

S. *mf*

A. *mp* the dan-cers rise from their seats. *mf* The

T. *mf* The

B. *mp* the dan-cers rise from their seats.

Vln. *p*

mp

9 *f* ³

S. dance be-gins to shape it-self in the crowd, _____ as

A. dance be-gins to shape it-self in the crowd, _____ as cou-ples join, _____

T. dance be-gins to shape it-self in the crowd, _____ as cou-ples join, as

B. _____ as cou-ples join, _____

Vln. *mf*

mf *mp* *cresc.*

14

S. cou-ples join, and cou-ples join cou-ples, _____

A. _____ as cou-ples join, and cou-ples join cou-ples, *mp*

T. cou-ples join, and cou-ples join cou-ples, _____ their *mp*

B. _____ as cou-ples join, and cou-ples join cou-ples, their

Vln. *f*

f *mp* *f*

18 *rit.* *mp* **Meno mosso** ♩ = 66

S. They move in the an - cient

A. They move in the an - cient

T. 8 move-ment to-geth - er light-en-ing their feet.

B. 8 move-ment to-geth - er light-en-ing their feet.

Vln. 18

18 *mp* *rit.* *p*

S. 22 cir - cle of the dance. The dance and the song call each oth - er in - to

A. 22 cir - cle of the dance. The dance and the song call each oth - er in - to

T. 8 *mp* They move in the an - cient cir - cle oth - er

B. *p* Mm

Vln. 22 *p*

22

26 *mf cresc. poco a poco* *f* *poco rit. sub. p*

S. be-ing. _____ Soon they are one, rapt in a sin - gle rap - ture, _____ so that

A. be-ing. _____ Soon they are one, rapt in a sin - gle rap - ture, _____

T. in - to be - ing. _____ Soon they are one, rapt in a sin - gle rap - ture, _____ so that

B. _____ Soon they are one, rapt in a sin - gle rap - ture, _____

Vln. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *poco rit.*

26 *mp cresc. poco a poco* *f*

31 *a tempo* *mp sonore* **Andante espressivo** ♩ = 56

S. e-ven the night _____ has its clar - i - ty, and time is the wheel _____ that

A. *pp* Oo _____ and time is the wheel _____ that

T. e-ven the night _____ has its clar - i - ty, and time is the wheel _____ that

B. *pp* Oo _____ and time is the wheel _____ that

Vln. *p* *a tempo* *mp sonore*

31 *p* *a tempo* *mp sonore*

6

35

S. brings it round. In this rap - ture the dead re - turn. Sor - row is

A. brings it round. In this rap - ture the dead re - turn. Sor - row is

T. brings it round. In this rap - ture the dead re - turn. Sor - row is

B. brings it round. In this rap - ture the dead re - turn. Sor - row is

Vln.

35

35

p

p

40

S. gone from them. They are light. *f - sonore*

A. gone from them. They are light. *f - sonore*

T. gone from them. They are light. *f - sonore*

B. gone from them. They are light. *f - sonore*

Vln.

40

mp

f

f - sonore

Poco piu mosso $\text{♩} = 60$

Largo $\text{♩} = 54$ 7

S. *mf* They step in - to the steps of the liv - ing and turn with them *mp* *mf*

A. *mf* They step in - to the steps of the liv - ing and turn with them *mp* *mf*

T. *mf* They step in - to the steps of the liv - ing and turn with them *mp* *mf*

B. *mf* They step in - to the steps of the liv - ing and turn with them *mp* *mf*

46

mf *p* *mf*

S. *a tempo* *rit.* **Larghetto con moto** $\text{♩} = 63$ *optional solo mp*
in the dance in the

A. in the dance

T. in the dance

B. in the dance

Vln. *pp* *a tempo* *rit.* *mp*

52 *pp*

8

57 *accel. e cresc. poco a poco* *mp* *tutti*

S. sweet en-clo-sure of the song, and time - less is the

A. and time - less is the

T. and time - less is the

B. and time - less the

Vln. *mp*

57 *p* *accel. e cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

62 *mf* *f*

S. wheel that brings it round. and time - less is the

A. wheel that brings it round. and time - less is the

T. wheel that brings it round. and time - less is the

B. wheel that brings it round. and time - less the

Vln. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

62 *mf* *f*

66

S. wheel _____ that brings it round.

A. wheel _____ that brings _____ it round.

T. wheel _____ that brings _____ it round.

B. wheel _____ brings it round.

Vln. *f*

molto allargando

70

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Vln. *molto allargando*