

The Winter Tree Sermon

TTBB Chorus and Piano

LYRICS BY JASON CHARNESKY

MUSIC BY BRUCE TRINKLEY

The Winter Tree Sermon

The winter wind blows cold
and gives the trees a voice
and though the year be old
the branches sing "Rejoice!"

"Despite the term decreed
to earth in ice and mud,
we harbor still the seed
of spring and guard the bud

"of blossom that we hold
as promise of the season
when crocuses unfold
and dragonflies have reason

"to dart in antic glee
weaving the summer sun
a lace of colored beam
upon their wing. The young

"of cricket and of rose
lay waiting, living still.
In secret pocket grows
the butterfly until

"the kiss of summer breeze
comes summon them again.
And summer rain will tease
the beetle and the wren.

"The beauty that you knew,
that shudder on the beach,
are buried out of view,
nine inches out of reach.

"Your summer-thundered heart
now wounded from the lance
of some departed love,
will blossom with the dance

of dandelion fuzz
upon an April air.
Though winter chill the blood
and makes the body frail,

remember, humankind,
you were a spirit first
before the flesh of spine
and muscle laid the curse

of doubt and winter pain."
The branches sung in choir.
"You shall return again!
With hearts restored entire."

I very seldom give
much credence to the sound
of creaking trees that sieve
the blizzard to the ground.

But what these branches spoke
reminded me of what
I almost had forgot:
I love. I live. All that

we thought was lost does not
forsake us, but returns.
Beneath the frozen plot
a fiery pasture burns.

The Winter Tree Sermon

For TTBB Chorus and Piano

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

Andante con moto $\text{♩} = 96$

Piano introduction in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The music features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *dim.*. The tempo is marked *Andante con moto* with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The introduction ends with the instruction *con pedale*.

Vocal entry for the first line of the chorus. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The tempo is marked *p*. The lyrics are: "The win - ter wind blows cold _____ and gives the trees a".

Piano accompaniment for the first line of the chorus. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The tempo is marked *p*. The lyrics are: "The win - ter wind blows cold _____ and gives the trees a".

Vocal entry for the second line of the chorus. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The tempo is marked *cresc.*. The lyrics are: "voice _____ and though the year be old the branch - es sing 'Re -".

Piano accompaniment for the second line of the chorus. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The tempo is marked *cresc.*. The lyrics are: "voice _____ and though the year be old the branch - es sing 'Re -".

13

mf *mp*

joyce!" _____ sing "Re - joyce!" _____ "De - spite the term de -

mf *mp*

joyce!" _____ sing "Re - joyce!" _____ "De - spite the term de -

mf *mp*

joyce!" _____ sing "Re - joyce!" _____ "De - spite the term de -

mf *mp*

joyce!" _____ sing "Re - joyce!" _____ "De - spite the term de -

13

mf *mp*

17

creed to earth in ice _____ and mud, _____ we har - bor still the

creed to earth in ice _____ and mud, _____ we har - bor still the

creed to earth in ice _____ and mud, _____ we har - bor still the

creed to earth in ice _____ and mud, _____ we har - bor still the

17

21

8 seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____

8 seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of

21

8 _____ in prom - ise of the sea - son when cro - cus - es _____ and

blos - som that we hold _____ in prom - ise of the cro - cus - es _____ and

hold _____ in prom - ise of the sea - son when cro - cus - es un - fold _____ and

hold _____ in prom - ise of the sea - son when cro - cus - es un - fold _____ and

25

8

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

p

p

p

p

30

drag - on - flies have rea - son to dart in an - tic glee _____ weav - ing the

drag - on - flies _____ to dart in an - tic glee _____

drag - on - flies have rea - son to dart in an - tic glee _____ the

drag - on - flies have rea - son to dart in an - tic glee _____ weav - ing the

30

sum - mer sun a lace of col - ored beam up - on their wing. _____ The

weav - ing the lace of col - ored beam up - on their

sum - mer sun a lace of col - ored beam up - on their wing. _____ The

sum - mer sun a lace of col - ored wing. _____

35

sub. *p* *cresc.*

39 *pp*

young _____ of crick - et and of rose _____ lay wait - ing, liv - ing

wing. _____ of crick - et and of rose _____ lay wait - ing, liv - ing

pp

young _____ of crick - et and of rose _____ lay wait - ing, liv - ing still. _____ In

pp

of rose _____

39 *dim.* *pp*

44 *cresc.* *f*

still. _____ In se - cret pock - et grows the but - ter - fly _____ the

cresc. *f*

still. _____ In se - cret pock - et grows the but - ter - fly _____ the

cresc.

se - cret pock - et grows the but - ter - fly un - til _____ un -

cresc.

_____ grows the but - ter - fly un - til un -

44 *cresc.*

53

rit.

Mesto ♩ = 76

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

53

rit.

mp

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

tease the bee - tle and the wren.

57 *pp* *mf*

Oo _____ Your

Oo _____ Your

beau-ty that you knew, that shud-der on the beach, are bur-ied out of view, nine inch-es out of reach. Your

beau-ty that you knew, that shud-der on the beach, are bur-ied out of view, nine inch-es out of reach. Your

61 *p* *mp*

sum-mer-thun-dered heart now wound-ed from the lance of some de-part-ed love, will blos-som

sum-mer-thun-dered heart now wound-ed from the lance of some de-part-ed love, will blos-som

sum-mer-thun-dered heart now wound-ed from the lance of some de-part-ed love, will

sum-mer-thun-dered heart now wound-ed from the lance of some de-part-ed love, will

61 *mf* *mp*

64

cresc. *f*

with the dance of dan-de-li-on fuzz on A - pril air. Though

cresc. *f*

with the dance of dan - de - li - on fuzz up - on an A - pril air. Though

cresc. *f*

blos-som with the dance of dan - de - li - on fuzz up - on an A - pril air. Though

blos-som with the dance Though win - ter chill the

64

cresc. *f*

67

dim. *p espressivo*

win - ter chill the blood and makes the bod - y frail, re - mem - ber, hu - man - kind, you

dim. *p espressivo*

win - ter chill the blood and makes the bod - y frail,

dim. *p espressivo*

win - ter chill the blood and makes the bod - y frail, re - mem - ber, hu - man - kind, you

dim.

blood and makes the bod - y frail,

67

dim. *p* *espressivo*

70 *cresc. poco a poco* *sfz*

were a spir - it first be - fore the flesh of spine and mus - cle laid the curse of doubt and win - ter pain."

cresc. poco a poco *sfz*

be - fore the flesh of spine and mus - cle laid the curse of doubt and win - ter pain."

cresc. poco a poco *sfz*

were a spir - it first be - fore the flesh of spine and mus - cle laid the curse of doubt and win - ter pain."

cresc. poco a poco *sfz*

be - fore the flesh of spine and mus - cle laid the curse of doubt and win - ter pain."

70 *cresc.* *mp* *sfz*

74 *mp*

The branch - es sung in choir. "You shall re - turn a - gain! With

mp

The branch - es sung in choir. "You shall re - turn a - gain! With

sfz *mp*

74 "You shall re - turn a -

77

p ten.

hearts re - stored en - tire." _____

p ten.

hearts re - stored en - tire." _____

p ten.

gain! With hearts re - stored en - tire." _____

p ten.

gain! With hearts re - stored en - tire." _____

77

poco rit.

ten.

3 3

80

Tempo primo

cresc. poco a poco

ver - y sel - dom give _____ much cre - dence to the sound _____ of creak - ing trees that

cresc. poco a poco

ver - y sel - dom give _____ much cre - dence to the sound _____ of creak - ing trees that

cresc. poco a poco

ver - y sel - dom give _____ much cre - dence to the sound _____ of creak - ing trees that

cresc. poco a poco

ver - y sel - dom give _____ much cre - dence to the sound _____ of creak - ing trees that

80

pp cresc. poco a poco

85

sieve the bliz - zard to the ground. to the ground. But

85

90

But what these branch - es spoke re - mind - ed me of what I al - most had for -

90

95 *allarg.* *joyously* **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 69 *quietly*

8 al - most had for - got: I love. I live. I

8 got: I love. I live. I

8 al - most had for - got: I love. I live. I

8 got: I love. I live. I

95 *allarg.* *joyously* *p*

101 love. I live.

101 love. I live.

101 love. I live.

101 love. I live.

101

101

Andante espressivo ♩ = 92

105

All that we thought was lost does not _____ for -

All that we thought was lost does not _____ for -

All that we thought was lost does not _____ for -

All that we thought was lost does not _____ for -

105

8va

110

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

*poco rit.**p molto cresc.**p molto cresc.*

110

(8va)

poco rit.

114

Tempo primo*mf molto cresc.**ff*

Be - neath the plot a fier - y pas - ture burns.

*mf molto cresc.**ff*

Be - neath the plot a fier - y pas - ture burns.

neath the fro - zen plot a fier - y pas - ture

neath the fro - zen plot a fier - y pas - ture

*ff**ff**ff**ff*

114

*p molto cresc.**ff precipitando*

8va

119

(8va) -----

119

sfz