

The Winter Sermon

SSAA Chorus and Piano

**Lyrics by Jason Charnesky
Music by Bruce Trinkley**

The Winter 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 in 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. I love.
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 SSAA Chorus and Piano or Marimba(s)

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

Andante con moto $\text{♩} = 96$

Piano

The piano introduction is in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *dim.*. The instruction *con pedale* is written below the bass line.

5 *soprano 1 and 2 p*

The win - ter wind blows cold _____ and gives the trees a

5 *alto 1 and 2 p*

The win - ter wind blows cold _____ and gives the trees a

The vocal parts enter at measure 5. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

9 *cresc.*

voice _____ and though the year be old the branch - es sing "Re -

9 *cresc.*

voice _____ and though the year be old the branch - es sing "Re -

The vocal parts enter again at measure 9. The piano accompaniment features a crescendo in the right hand and a steady bass line.

13 *mf* *mp*

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

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

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

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

13 *mf* *mp*

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 *mf* *mp*

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

21

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of blos - som that we

seed of spring and guard _____ the bud _____ of blos - som that we

21

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

25

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

p

p

p

p

p

30 *f*

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 *f*

35 *mp*

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.*

48 *dim.*
 kiss of sum - mer breeze _____ comes sum - mon them a - gain. _____ And sum - mer rain will
dim.
 kiss of sum - mer breeze _____ comes sum - mon them a - gain. _____ And sum - mer rain will
f *dim.*
 til _____ the kiss of sum - mer breeze _____ comes sum - mon them a - gain. And rain will
f *dim.*
 til _____ the kiss of sum - mer breeze _____ comes sum - mon them a - gain. And rain will

48 *f* *dim.*

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. _____ *p* The
 tease the bee - tle and _____ the wren. _____ *p* The

53 *rit.* *mp*

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

57 *p*

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.

67

dim. *p espressivo*

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

dim.

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*

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

mp "You shall re - turn a - gain! With

mp The branch-es sung in choir. "You shall re - turn a -

sfz "You shall re - turn a -

74 *mp*

77 *p ten.*

hearts re - stored en - tire." _____ I

p ten.

hearts re - stored en - tire." _____ I

p ten.

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

p ten.

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

77 *ten.*

poco rit.

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

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

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

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

90

But what these branch - es spoke _____ re - mind - ed me of what _____ I

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

But what these branch - es spoke _____ re - mind - ed me of what _____ I

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

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

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

got: I love. I live. I

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

got: I love. I live. I

95 *allarg.* *joyously* *p*

101 love. I live.

love. I live.

love. I live.

love. I live.

101

105

Andante espressivo ♩ = 92

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 -

8^{va}

110

sake us, but re - turns. _____

sake us, but re - turns. _____

sake us, but re - turns. _____

sake us, but re - turns. _____

poco rit.

p molto cresc.

p molto cresc.

p

Be -

Be -

8^{va}

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 burns.

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

114

*p molto cresc.**ff precipitando*

119

(8va) -----

119

sfz