

The Winter Tree Sermon

SATB 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 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 SATB Chorus and Piano

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

Andante con moto ♩ = 96 *solo or tutti*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mp *mf* *dim.*

con pedale

6

win - ter wind blows cold _____ and gives the trees a voice _____ and though the year be

pp

Ah _____

pp

Ah _____

pp

Ah _____

6

p

11 *cresc.* *tutti* *mf* *mp*

old the branch-es sing "Re - joice!" _____ sing "Re - joice!" _____ "De-

cresc. *mf* *mp*

_____ sing "Re - joice!" _____ "De-

cresc. *mf* *mp*

_____ sing "Re - joice!" _____ "De-

cresc. *mf* *mp*

_____ sing "Re - joice!" _____ "De-

11 *cresc.* *mf*

cresc. *mf*

16

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

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

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

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

16 *mp*

21

seed of spring and guard_____ the bud_____

seed of spring and guard_____ the bud_____ "of blos - som that we

seed of spring and guard_____ the bud_____ "of

seed of spring and guard_____ the bud_____ "of blos - som that we

21

25

mf

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

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

25

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 have rea - son "to dart in an - tic glee_____ the

drag - on - flies_____ "to dart in an - tic glee_____

drag - on - flies have rea - son "to dart in an - tic glee_____ weav - ing the

30 *f*

sum - mer sun a lace of col - ored beam up - on their wing_____ The

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_____

35 *sub. p cresc.*

mp

mp

mp

sub. p cresc.

39 *pp*

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

pp

young "of rose In

pp

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

pp

"of rose

39 *dim.* *pp*

44 *cresc.* *f*

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

cresc. *f*

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

cresc.

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

cresc.

In se - cret pock - et grows the but - ter - fly 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.*
 8 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

53 *rit.* **Mesto** ♩ = 72 *p*
 tease the bee - tle and _____ the wren. _____ The
 tease the bee - tle and _____ the wren. _____
 8 tease the bee - tle and _____ the wren. _____
 tease the bee - tle and _____ the wren. _____
 53 *rit.* *mp*
 2 2 2

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

pp *mf* "Your

pp *mf* "Your

pp *mf*

57 *p*

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

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

61 *mf* *mp*

of some de-part-ed love, will

64 *cresc.* *f*

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

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

with the dance "of dan-de-li-on fuzz on 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

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

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

blood and makes the bod - y frail,

67 *dim.* *p* *espressivo*

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

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

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

p *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
 "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

hearts re-stored en - tire." _____

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

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

77 *poco rit. ten.*

80 **Tempo primo** $\text{♩} = 96$ *cresc.*

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

pp cresc. Oh _____ of creak-ing trees that

pp cresc. Oh _____ Oh _____

pp cresc. Oh _____ Oh _____

80 *pp cresc.*

85

sieve the bliz-zard to the ground.____ But

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

to the ground.____

to the ground.____ But

85

90

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

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-

90

95 *allarg.* *joyously* **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 84 *quietly*

got: _____ I love. _____ I live. _____ I

joyously *quietly*

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

joyously *quietly*

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

joyously *quietly*

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 ♩ = 116

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

8^{va}

110

*poco rit.**p molto cresc.*

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

sake us, but re - turns. _____ Be -

sake us, but re - turns. _____

sake us, but re - turns. _____

110

(8^{va})*poco rit.*

Tempo primo $\text{♩} = 96$

114 **ff**
neath the fro - zen plot a fier - y pas - ture burns. _____

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

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. _____

114 **p** *molto cresc.* **ff** *precipitando* *8va* -----

119

119 *(8va)* ----- **sfz**