Adventus

for unaccompanied SATB chorus

AJ Harbison

Muse Room Press

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Adventus, first edition, 2020

Adventus (2020)

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Program Notes

The Latin word "adventus" means "coming." The text and music of Adventus look back to the first Advent, the birth of Jesus Christ, and look forward with longing to the second Advent, when He will return to make all things right. The music is chant-like and is based around a single consonant but "ungrounded" chord, a musical expression of "already and not yet."

Performance Notes

All accidentals apply only to the note they precede.

Tenuto marks indicate both a slight emphasis and a slight lengthening of the note.

The large dynamics above each system apply to all voice parts.

A crescendo and diminuendo without a dynamic marking in the middle (i.e. \longrightarrow) indicate a slight dynamic increase without reaching the next dynamic level. If the dynamic before the crescendo is p, the highest dynamic level reached before the diminuendo should be between p and mp, not fully reaching mp.

Duration

ca. 5 minutes

Adventus

by Mark Harbison

Adventus

A coming

Poor son of man,

Yet Word of God made flesh:

The promised Messiah, King of kings.

Born without fanfare in the dirt and the hay,

His only proclamation a sign in the sky for kings from afar,

His only attendants livestock and shepherds, the least of these-

While the greatest slaughter the innocent, and voices weep and mourn.

In the fullness of time, the Redeemer has come at last: the Son of God Himself,

Who died but conquered death; who ascended to heaven and shall come again with glory.

When the course of time is finished, and the days of mourning are ended,

Despite hard-hearted pharaohs, weeping and rumors of wars-

The least of these wait, certain of the unknown day and hour

When His sign streaks like lightning across the sky,

When "how long, O Lord" is at last no longer:

When the Lord of lords returns triumphant,

Word of God crowned in glory,

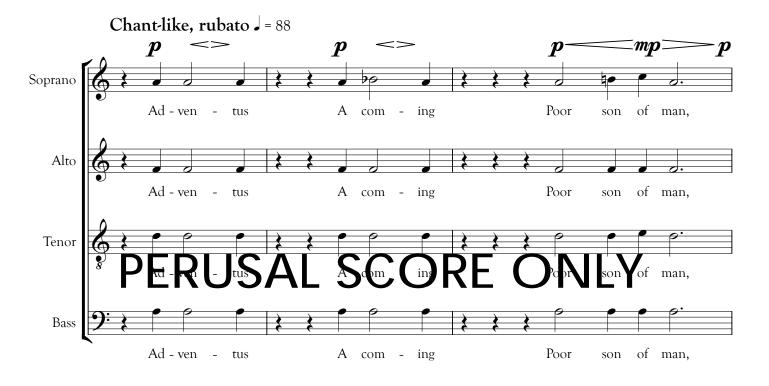
Great Son of Man,

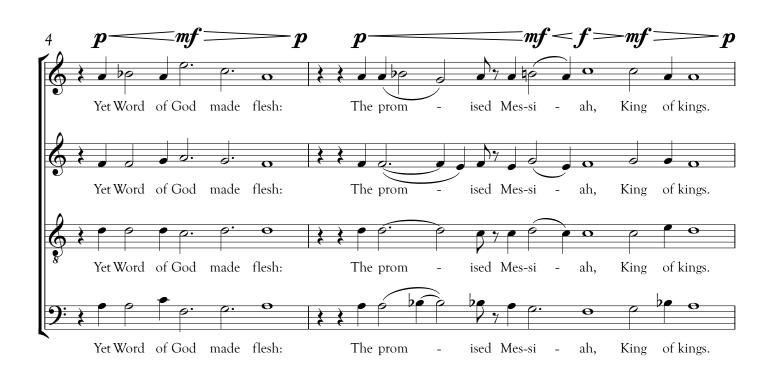
O Savior come

Adventus

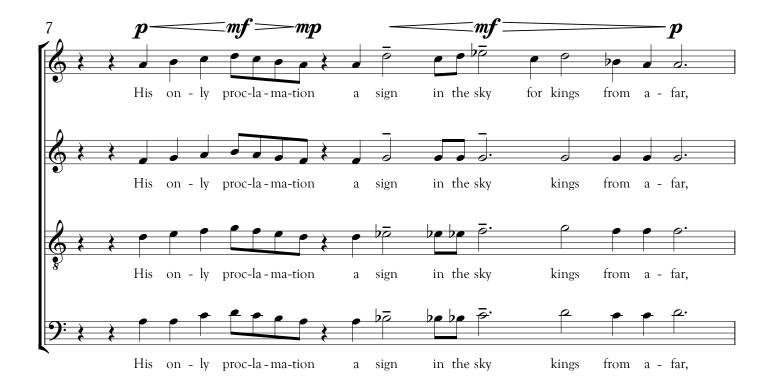
Mark Harbison (2020)

AJ Harbison (2020)

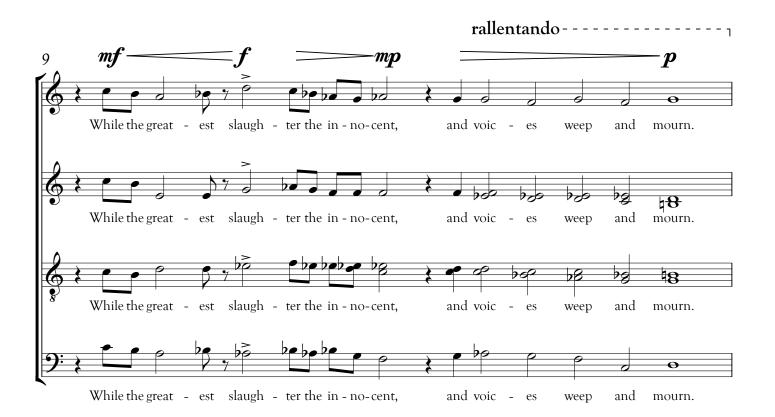






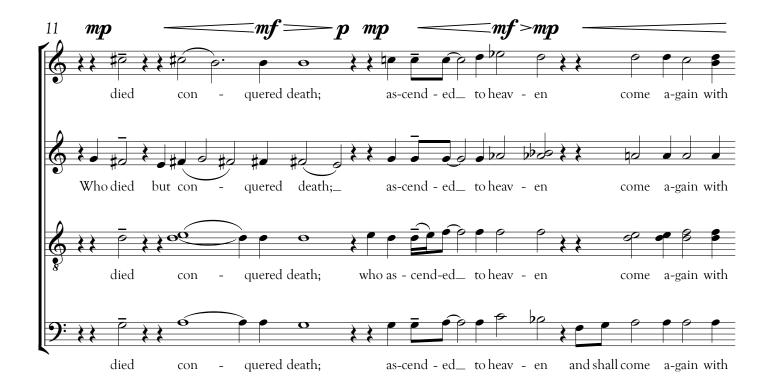




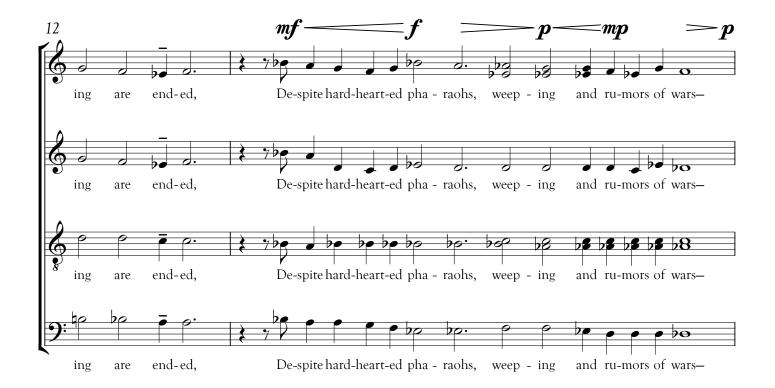


Adventus — AJ Harbison

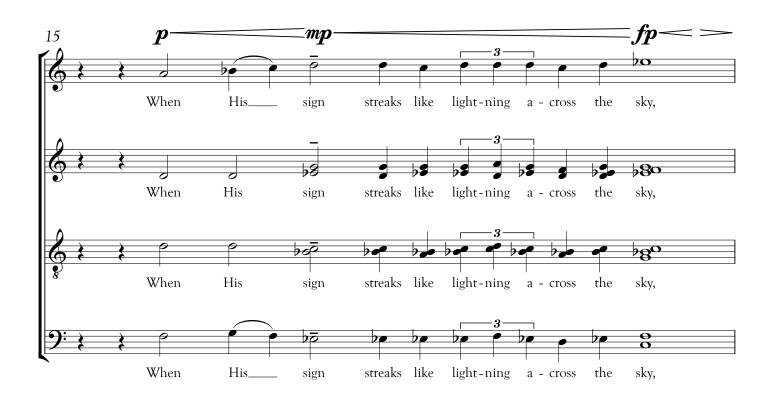




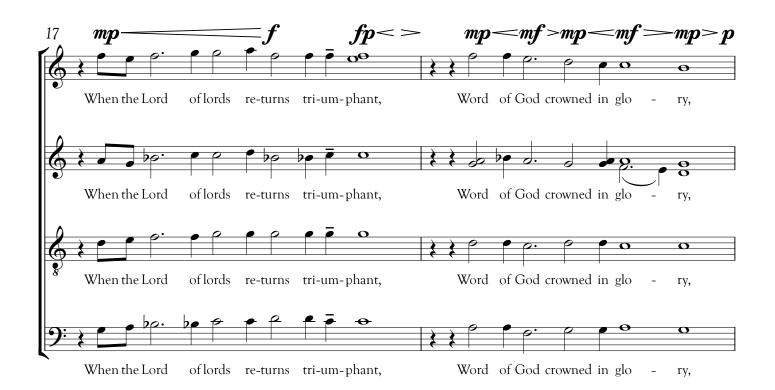


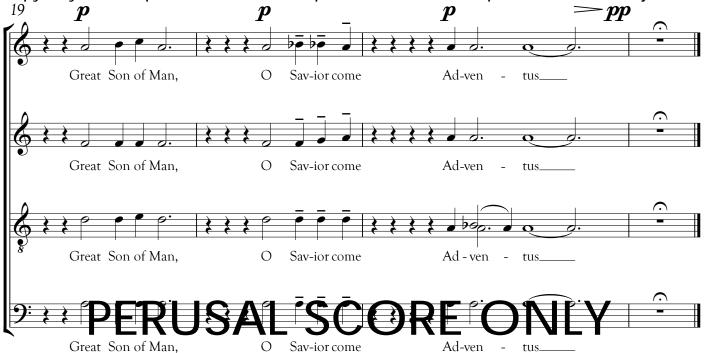












Kansas City, Lent and Eastertide, 2020