

Vesper Umbra

for SATB choir, SATB quartet, organ, and hand bells

Brooke Joyce (2010)

Vesper Umbra

for SATB choir, SATB quartet, organ, and hand bells (3 1/2 octaves)

Commissioned and premiered by Lutheran Summer Music Academy, 2010

Brooke Joyce

Program note:

Vesper Umbra (Evening Shade) is a contemplative work that draws on many musical and literary sources to create a sonic tapestry that encourages listeners to reflect on both their faith as well as their own mortality. Intermittently throughout the piece, the choir sings John Leland's 1792 hymn "The Day is Past and Gone" (also known as "Evening Shade" in the shape note tradition), while the solo quartet responds with fragments of chant, various settings of Martin Luther's hymn "Aus tiefer Not" ("Out of the Depths I Cry to You"), and the first verse of H.A.C. Milan's hymn "Je dois mourir" ("Yes, I must die").

Performance Notes:

The bells and solo quartet should be situated antiphonally off-stage.

Bells should be set to the "bright" setting.

Ideally, the words on the following page should be printed in programs/bulletins.

Solo:

Origo recensetur non substansia revocatur

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return—Tertullian (ca. 160 – ca. 220 A.D.),
De resurrectione carnis*

Choir:

The day is past and gone,
The evening shades appear;
O may we all remember well
The night of death is near.

We lay our garments by,
Upon our beds to rest;
So death will soon disrobe us all
Of what we've here possessed. (*John Leland*)

Quartet: Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir

Choir: Out of the depths I cry to you

Quartet: Herr Gott, erhoer' mein rufen

Choir: O Savior, hear my calling

Quartet: Dein gnädig' Ohren kehr zu mir

Incline your ear to me (Martin Luther)

Choir:

Lord, keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears;
May angels guard us while we sleep,
Till morning light appears. (*Leland*)

Quartet:

Je dois mourir :

Mais, Jésus ! que mon âme est calme !

Déjà je vois la sainte palme

Qu'en t'adorant je vais saisir ! (*H.A.C. Milan*)

Yes, I must die.—Through Thee alone,
Jesus, my ransomed soul is calm ;
By faith I see Thee on the Throne,
And wear the crown, and wave the palm. (*trans. Jane E Arnold*)

Choir:

And when we early rise,
And view the unwearied sun,
May we set out to win the prize,
And after glory run.

And when our days are past,
And we from time remove,
O may we in thy bosom rest,
The bosom of thy love. (*Leland*)

Quartet:

Origo recensetur non substansia revocatur

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freely; keep relative sense of rhythm

$\text{♩} = 60$

mf

3

3

3

QA
Quartet

QT

QB

S

A

Choir

T

B

Oh

p

Oh

Hand Bells

mf sempre l.v.

Organ

3

QS *p*
 O - ri - - - go re - cen - se - tur

S
p
 Oh

A

T
p
 8
 Oh

B

4

QS
 non sub ³ - - - - stan - si - a

S

A
 Oh

T
 8

B

HB
mp

5

QS

re - vo - - - - 3 - ca - - - - tur.

S

p
Oh

A

T

p
8
Oh

B

6 ♩ = 72

S

T

p *pp* *p*
8
Oh O - - - -

B

p *pp* *p*
The day is past and gone, The even-ing shades ap-

HB

p

10

T
8
ri - - - - go We

B
mp
f
mf
ff
pear. Oh may we all re - mem - ber well The night of death is near. We

15

T
8
lay our gar - ments by, U - pon our beds to rest. So death will soon dis -

B
f
lay our gar - ments by, U - pon our beds to rest. So death will soon dis -

20 ff

T
8
robe us all Of what we here pos - sess.

B
ff
robe us all Of what we here pos - sess.

HB

f

Org.

f

24 $\text{♩} = 60$ *f*

QA *f* Aus tie - fer Not schrei' ich

QT *f* Aus tie - fer Not schrei' ich zu dir

Org.

26

QA zu dir

QT

Org. (ped) *mp*