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Be Still Before the Lord

Christopher Betts

SATB and organ

Christopher Betts

Christopher Betts was born and educated in the United Kingdom. His first church music experience was as a boy chorister at Lichfield Cathedral, and his subsequent training included Organ Scholarships at Lichfield Cathedral; Magdalen College; Oxford University, where he read music and received BA and MA degrees; and St. Alban's Cathedral. He went on to become Assistant Master of the Music at Sheffield Cathedral and then Director of Music at the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Between his times at Oxford and St. Alban's, he spent a year in the United States as Guest Artist-in-Residence at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas, a large church with five thousand members and an extensive music program. In 2001 he was invited to return to Lubbock to become Associate Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, and since 2004 he has held the position of Director of Music there.

Living now with his family in Texas, he is a busy choral director, organist, and accompanist. In addition to his church position, he is Adjunct Professor of Organ at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview and Chapel Organist for All Saints Episcopal School in Lubbock. He has made many choral arrangements, orchestrations, and compositions, of which "Be Still before the Lord" is the first to be submitted for publication.

Notes

Vocal lines should be very sustained throughout, with longer notes increasing in intensity, and phrases growing towards the stronger syllables.

Organists are encouraged to use the full color resources of the organ. The forte beginning at measure 24 should include Great foundations, and a strong Swell registration including 16' reed. Crescendos and diminuendos should be smooth and carefully planned.

With love and gratitude to Sunny
Be Still Before the Lord
SATB and organ

Words based on Psalms 37, 24, 84

Christopher Betts

Andante Calmato
pp

Soprano
Be still — be-fore the Lord and wait pa - tient-ly —

Alto
Be still — be-fore the Lord and wait pa - tient-ly —

Tenor
Be still — be-fore the Lord and wait pa - tient-ly —

Bass
Be still — be-fore the Lord and wait pa - tient-ly —

Andante Calmato
pp

Organ

Pedals

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5

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust.

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust

p

9

mf molto espressivo *mp*

De - light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de-

mf molto espressivo *mp*

De - light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de-

mf molto espressivo *mp*

De - light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de-

mf molto espressivo *mp*

De - light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de-

mf

12

- sires of your heart; for the Lord is our sal - va - tion

- sires of your heart; for the Lord is our sal - va -

- sires of your heart; for the Lord is our sal - va -

- sires of your heart; for the Lord is our sal - va -

12

mp molto legato

16

and our re - fuge. One thing have I de -

- tion and our re - fuge.

- tion and our re - fuge.

- tion and our re - fuge.

poco rit. a tempo *mp*

16

[Solo]

poco rit. Ch. a tempo *mp*

20

- sired: that I may dwell in the house — ³ of the Lord —

mp

that I — may dwell in the house — of the Lord —

20

Ch.

23

all — the days of my life, — *f* sostenuto to be - hold the beau - ty, the

all — the days of my life, — *f* sostenuto to be - hold the beau - ty, the

to be - hold the beau - ty, the

23

Gt. *f*

26 *cresc.* *ff*
 beau - ty of the Lord; for one day in the
cresc. *ff*
 beau - ty of the Lord; for one day in the
cresc. *ff*
 beau - ty of the Lord; for one day in —
ff
 for one day in —

26 *ff*

29 *dim.* *mp*
 courts of the Lord is bet-ter than a thou - sand with - out.
dim. *mp*
 courts of the Lord is bet-ter than a thou - sand with - out.
dim. *mp*
 — the Lord is bet-ter than a thou - sand — with - out.
dim. *mp*
 — the Lord is bet-ter than a thou - sand with - out.

29 *mf*

32 **rall.**

dim.

35 **pp**

39 **tempo 1**

Be still be-fore the Lord and wait pa-tient-ly

39 **tempo 1**

pp

43

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust. De -

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust De -

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust De -

Com - mit your way to the Lord and trust De -

43

[Solo]

p *mf*

48 *mf* molto espressivo *mp*

- light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de - sires of your

- light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de - sires of your

- light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de - sires of your

- light in the Lord and you will be giv'n the de - sires of your

48

51 *mp*

heart; for the Lord is our sal - va - tion _____ and our re - fuge. _____

mp

heart; - for the Lord is our sal - va - tion _____ and our re - fuge. _____

mp

heart; - for the Lord is our sal - va - tion _____ and our re - fuge. _____

mp

heart; for the Lord is our sal - va - tion _____ and our re - fuge. _____

51 *mp*

56 *p* **rall. molto** *pp*

Be still, still.

p *pp*

Be still, still.

p *pp*

Be still, still.

p *pp*

Be still, still.

56 *p* **rall. molto** [Solo]

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