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General
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Amazing Grace

Bruce Saylor

SATB with soprano solo and piano

Bruce Saylor

Bruce Saylor holds degrees from The Juilliard School and from The City University of New York, where he received his PhD. He has also studied at the Accademia di S. Cecilia in Rome under a Fulbright fellowship. The winner of more than 40 awards in his field, he has received honors from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Society of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation.

Saylor was the Brena and Lee Freeman Composer-in-Residence at Lyric Opera of Chicago (1992–94) where he composed the third of his four operas, “Orpheus Descending,” set to J. D. McClatchy’s libretto after the Tennessee Williams play. His orchestral music has been commissioned and performed by the Houston, San Francisco, Nashville, Saint Louis, and Yale symphonies, and by the American Composers Orchestra, Incontri di Musica Sacra e Contemporanea of Rome, and Musica Viva of New York. His vocal and instrumental chamber music has been performed in the US, Europe, and Japan. The Yard has commissioned numerous dance scores, and Nine Circles Chamber Theater has toured with his operas and theater pieces. Saylor has produced nine cantatas and two major works for voice and orchestra. He has also composed large-scale choral works for Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI’s visits to St. Patrick’s Cathedral, President Clinton’s Second Inaugural and Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold’s Investiture at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and much sacred choral music. He has written the original music and arrangements for two holiday CDs of American soprano Jessye Norman and concert arrangements of the sacred music of Duke Ellington, the latter most recently performed at Miss Norman’s “Honor!” festival in New York City in March, 2009. Mezzo-soprano Constance Beavon has recorded four of his vocal chamber cycles.

An award-winning teacher, as well, Saylor is a professor at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Performance Notes

Written especially for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration Concert, The Riverside Church, New York City, February 12, 2009, with combined choirs, and the Queens College Orchestra*, Maurice Peress, conductor.

First performance with keyboard: Queens College High School Choral Festival, March 2010, Dr. James John, conductor, featuring the combined choirs of

- Central Islip High School Concert Choir, John Anthony, Director, LaGuardia High School Senior Chorus, Deepak Marwah, Director
- Glen Cove High School Concert Choir, Edward Norris, Director, Herricks High School Chamber Choir, Louise O’Hanlon, Director
- and the Queens College Choir, James John, Director; Sachie Ueshima, soprano soloist, Katrina Montagna, organ, Miguel Tepale, timpani, Paul Kerekes, piano

* Orchestral materials are available from the publisher.

Amazing Grace

SATB with soprano solo and piano

John Newton and John Rees
(19th century)

Setting by
Bruce Saylor

Slowly (♩ = 68)

pp

Soprano soloist

A - maz - ing - grace! how

pp

Soprano

Hm

pp

Alto

Hm

pp

Tenor

Hm

Bass

pp

Piano

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7

sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was

pp *p* *pp* sub

Hm *pp* *p* *pp* Hm

Hm *pp* *p* Hm

Hm *pp* *p* Hm

7

lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

pp *p* *pp* sub

Hm *pp* *p* Hm

Hm *pp* *p* Hm

14

moving forward a little

mp

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21

Ah

pp

(Hm) 'Twas grace that taught my

pp

(Hm) 'Twas grace,

p *pp* *pp*

(Hm) my

p *pp*

(Hm)

21

relax

mf

a tempo

p

pedal with chord changes

28

(Ah)

heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;

and grace my fears re -

heart my fears re - lieved;

and grace my fears re - lieved;

28

33

How pre - cious - did that grace ap - pear the hour I

pp

- lieved;

pp

pp

33

pp

39

first be - lieved;

p

the hour I first be -

p

the hour I first be -

p

the hour I first be -

p

the hour I first be -

39

43 *mf* *p* *mp*

- lieved! _____ Through ma - - ny³ dan - gers, _____

mf *p* *mp*

- lieved! _____ Through ma - - ny _____ dan - gers, -

mf *p* *mp*

- lieved! _____ Through ma - - ny _____ dan - gers, -

mf *p* *mp*

- lieved! _____ Through ma - - ny dan - gers,

43 *mf* *p*

48

toils, and snares, I have al³ - rea - dy _____ come:

toils, _____ and _____ snares, I have al - rea - - dy

toils, _____ and _____ snares, I have al - rea - - dy

toils, _____ and _____ snares, I have al - rea - - dy

48

52 *pp*

'tis grace — that — brought me safe — thus — far, and

come: — 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, — and

come: — 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and

come: — 'tis grace that brought — me safe thus far, — and

52 *pp*

58 *f*

grace will — lead me home. The Lord has —

grace will lead me — home. The Lord — has

grace will lead me — home. The Lord — has

grace will lead me — home. The Lord — has

58 *Broaden* *f* dim.

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63

prom - - ised good _____ to me, his word _____ my _____

prom - - ised good _____ to me, his word _____ my _____

prom - - ised good _____ to me, his word _____ my _____

prom - - ised good _____ to me, his word _____ my _____

mf

Ped.

67

hope se - cures, _____ he will _____ my _____

hope _____ se - cures, _____ se - cures, _____ he will my

hope _____ se - cures, _____ se - cures, _____ he will my

hope _____ se - cures, _____ se - cures, _____ he will my

71

shield and por - - - tion be as

shield and por - - - tion be as

shield and por - - - tion be as

shield and por - - - tion be as

71

74

long as life en - dures.

long as life en - dures.

long as life en - dures.

long as life en - dures.

74

cresc.

f

78 *mf* cresc. poco a poco

When we've been there — ten

mf

When we've been there — ten

mf

When we've been there — ten

mf

When we've been there — ten

cresc. poco a poco

78

82

thou - sand, ten thou - - sand, ten thou - sand

thou - sand, ten thou - - sand, ten thou - sand

thou - sand, ten thou - - sand, ten thou - sand

thou - sand, ten thou - - sand, ten thou - sand

82

6

85 *f*

years. _____

f

years. _____

f

years. _____

f

years. _____

col 8va basso

91 *f*

When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - - ing _

f

When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - - ing

f

When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - - ing

f

When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - - ing

91

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

97

Solo Soprano

Ah

as the sun, we've no less

as the sun, as the sun, we've no less

as the sun, the sun, we've no less

as the sun, we've no less

97

Ped.

101

(Ah)

days to sing God's praise, sing God's

days to sing God's praise, sing God's

days to sing God's praise, sing God's

days to sing God's praise, sing God's

101

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

106 (Ah) _____

praise, _____ praise, _____ than _____ when _____ we'd _____ first _____

praise, _____ praise, _____ than _____ when _____ we'd _____ first _____

praise, _____ than _____ when _____ we'd _____ first _____

praise, _____ than _____ when _____ we'd _____ first _____

106 hold back
cresc.

Ped. Ped.

111 *fff* be - - gun. *fff* be - - gun. *fff* be - - gun. *fff* be - - gun.

111 *fff* col 8ve basso

116

p

A - maz - - ing ___ grace! how

p

p

p

p

116

p espr.

121

sweet the sound.

p

A - maz - - ing ___ grace! how sweet the

p

A - maz - - ing grace! ___ how sweet ___ the

p

A - maz - - ing grace! how sweet ___ the

p

A - maz - - ing grace! ___ how sweet the

121

126

sound, _____ how sweet, _____ how sweet _____ the sound. _____

sound, how _____ sweet _____ how sweet, _____ how sweet _____ the sound. _____

sound, how _____ sweet _____ how sweet, _____ how sweet _____ the sound. _____

sound, _____ how sweet, _____ how sweet _____ the sound. _____

126

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

131

A - maz - - ing _____

131

p

135

grace! how sweet the sound. _____

pp

A - maz - - - ing

pp

A - maz - - - ing

pp

A -

ritard. - - - - - **meno mosso**

135

p

Ped. _____

139

grace! A - maz - - - ing grace! _____

grace! A - maz - - - ing grace! _____

grace! _____

grace! _____

grace! _____

pp

A - maz - - - ing grace! _____

rall. molto

139

pp

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

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