



I Choose The Light

for Mixed Choir and Piano
(also available for String Orchestra)

Lyrics by Michael W. Berg
Music by Ken Berg

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I Choose The Light!

by Michael W. Berg

If you so choose, then you can see A world in heavy darkness shrouded,
Bleak and bitter, full of drear, Deep with many a nightmare crowded.
Here mothers weep for children gone, Here fathers falter in the face
Of yet another dreary dawn, Here dreams can wilt without a trace.

*But as for me, I choose the light – The shadows make it clear and bright.
Courage comes to vanquish fears, Hope arrives to dry our tears.
Faith in all that's pure and true Takes hold to battle doubt and rue,
And over all the strife descends The power of love to heal and mend.*

Yes, you can choose to see the wounds, The scars and sores that here abound.
Or you can choose to see the truths That set our hearts on solid ground.
O, See them both, oh, see it all, And then you'll see which side is stronger.
Though cruelty rage and darkness fall, The light that binds us all shines longer.

*But as for me, I choose the light – The shadows make it clear and bright.
Courage comes to vanquish fears, Hope arrives to dry our tears.
Faith in all that's pure and true Takes hold to battle doubt and rue,
And over all the strife descends The power of love to heal and mend.*

On this hope I cast my lot, That love and courage shall win free;
Oh strength of hope, how dearly bought, Your vict'ry must begin in me!
For each of us the time is nigh to make this clear and vital choice:
Do we succumb to fear, and die Within ourselves without a voice?

*No! I shall stand, I choose the light – The shadows make it clear and bright.
Courage comes to vanquish fears, Hope arrives to dry our tears.
Faith in all that's pure and true Takes hold to battle doubt and rue,
And over all the strife descends The power of love to heal and mend.*

Commissioned by The Association for Music in International Schools for the
Middle School Honor Mixed Choir and Asian Middle School Honor Orchestra,
January 2012 at the International School of Beijing,
Darlene Elkins and Jonathan Mann, Conductors

I Choose The Light!

for Mixed Choir and piano (optional String Orchestra)
(duration, app. 5:50)

Michael W. Berg

Ken Berg

Piano



♩=66

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a simple bass line in the bass clef. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 66.

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Choir



4

If you so choose, ——— if you so choose... if you so choose ——— if you so

If you so choose, so choose... if you so choose, so

Pno.

The choir and piano section begins with a four-measure rest for the choir. The piano accompaniment continues with chords. The lyrics are: "If you so choose, ——— if you so choose... if you so choose ——— if you so". The second line of lyrics is: "If you so choose, so choose... if you so choose, so".

8 **Meno mosso** $\text{♩} = 30$

Choir
choose... If you so choose, then you can see a

Pno.
choose... **Meno mosso** $\text{♩} = 30$

10
 Choir
 world in hea-vy dark-ness shroud-ed, —

Pno.

Bleak and bit -ter, full of drear,

12 **Più mosso** $\text{♩} = 35$

Choir
 Here no thers weep for chil dren

Pno.
Più mosso $\text{♩} = 35$
 Deep with man-y'a night-mare crowd - ed,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 8-9) features a choir part with lyrics 'choose... If you so choose, then you can see a' and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is 'Meno mosso' with a quarter note equal to 30 beats. The second system (measures 10-11) continues the choir part with lyrics 'world in hea-vy dark-ness shroud-ed, —' and 'Bleak and bit -ter, full of drear,'. The piano accompaniment continues. The third system (measures 12-13) features a choir part with lyrics 'Here no thers weep for chil dren' and 'Deep with man-y'a night-mare crowd - ed,'. The tempo changes to 'Più mosso' with a quarter note equal to 35 beats. The piano accompaniment continues.

14

Choir

gone, Here fa-thers fal-ter in the face of yet a -

Pno.

17

Choir

no-ther drea-ry dawn. Here dreams can wilt with-out a trace,

Pno.

20

Choir

with-out a trace. (If you so choose.. if you so choose..)

Meno mosso

Pno.

Meno mosso

24 **Più mosso** ♩=65

Choir

— But as for me, I choose the

Pno.

Più mosso ♩=65

27

Choir

light, the sha-dows make it clear — and bright! Cour-age comes to

Pno.

30

Choir

van - quish fears, hope ar-rives to dry our tears. Faith in all that's

Pno.

32

Choir

pure and true takes hold to bat tle doubt and rue, and o - ver all the

Pno.

9

Meno mosso

heal _____

34

Choir

strife des-cends the pow'r of love to heal, to heal and mend.

Meno mosso

Pno.

37

Choir

$\text{♩} = 30$

Yes, you can choose to see the wounds the

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 30$

39

Choir

scars and sores that here a - bound,

Or you can choose to see the truths that

Pno.

41

Più mosso $\text{♩} = 35$

Choir

O see them both, O see it all;

set our hearts on sol-id gound.

Più mosso $\text{♩} = 35$

Pno.

44

Choir

and then you'll see which side is strong-er, Tho' cruel-ty rage and dark-ness fall,

Pno.

47

Choir

The light that binds us all shines long - er, shines long - er. (If you so

Pno.

51 **Meno mosso** **Più mosso** ♩=65

Choir

choose.. if you so choose.) But as for me, I choose the

Pno.

55

Choir

light, the sha-dows make it clear and bright! Cour-age comes to

Pno.

58

Choir

van - quish fears, hope ar-rives to dry our tears. Faith in all that's

Pno.

60

Choir

pure and true takes hold to bat-tle doubt and rue, and o-ver all the

Pno.

Meno mosso

9

Più mosso **Meno mosso** **Più mosso**
heal _____

62

Choir

strife des-cends the pow'r of love to heal, to heal and mend.

Pno.

65 ♩=72

Choir

On this hope I cast my lot that faith and cour-age shall win

I choose, _____ to-day I choose. _____ I choose, _____

Pno.

♩=72

69 **Meno mosso**

Choir

free: O! Strength of hope, how dear-lybought, Your vic - t'ry must be-ginin
 — to-day I choose. — I choose, — to-day I choose. — I choose —

Pno. **Meno mosso**

73 **Più mosso**

Choir

me. For each of us, the time is nigh to make this clear and vi-tal

Pno. **Più mosso**

77

Choir

choice, Do we suc-cumb to fear and die with -

Pno.

80

Choir

in our - selves with - out a voice. No,

Pno.

83 **Meno mosso** $\text{♩} = 52$ **Più mosso** $\text{♩} = 62$

Choir

No! No! NO! I shall stand I choose the

Pno.

Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 52$ **Più mosso** $\text{♩} = 62$

87

Choir

light, the sha-dows make it clear and bright! Cour-age comes to

Pno.

90

Choir

van - quish fears, hope ar-rives to dry our tears. Faith in all that's

Pno.

92

Choir

pure and true takes hold to bat-tle doubt and rue, and o-ver all the

Pno.

Meno mosso

9

Meno mosso Meno mosso

94 **Più mosso** *heal _____ to heal _____ the*

Choir *strife des-cends the pow'r of love to heal, to heal _____ to heal, the*

heal, _____ to heal, _____ the

heal, to heal, _____ to heal, the

Più mosso **Meno mosso** **Meno mosso**

Pno.

Più mosso

97 *Pow'r _____ of love, _____ the Pow'r _____ of love _____ to heal and*

Choir *Pow'r of love, the Pow'r of love _____ to heal and*

Pow'r of love, the Pow'r of _____ love _____ to heal and

Pow'r of _____ love, _____ the Pow'r of love _____ to heal and

Più mosso

Pno.

100

Meno mosso

Choir

mend. *I Choose the Light!* *I choose the*

Pno.

Meno mosso **Meno mosso**

Più mosso **Meno mosso**

102

Choir

Light!

Pno.

Più mosso **Meno mosso**

CHORAL AND SOLO LITERATURE by Ken Berg for School/Church/All levels & voicings

All titles are available from jwpepper.com or direct from the Bella Voce Press website. (www.bellavocepress.com)

For more information, please visit us at www.bellavocepress.com **Commissioning is easy.**

Contact Ken Berg, (ken@bellavocepress.com) Or if you find a piece you like, but need it in a different voicing, we can work that out!

BVP 600s: Commissioned anthems for various voicings / accompaniments

601. "A New Psalm": SSAA choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2011 ACDA National Convention)
602. "Youth": SATB choir a capella (commissioned for the 2009 BBC Concert Tour of Japan)
603. "Blessed Is The Nation": SATB choir, piano & organ (Commissioned for July 4th Worship Service, 2010)
604. "I Surrender": SATB a capella, soprano solo (Commissioned by the MBBC Sanctuary Choir)
605. "O Canyon Grand": SATB a capella or with piano (Commissioned for the 2011 BBC Concert Tour to the Grand Canyon)
606. "Bist Du Bei Mir": SATTB a capella
607. "Bless The Lord": SSA and piano (little rock 'n roll setting of the Psalms)
608. "CLOSER WALK: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee": SATB a capella, tenor solo (Commissioned by the MBBC Sanctuary Choir)
609. "Laudate": SATB Choir and light percussion (Commissioned by the Blue Lake Youth Choir 2011)
610. "Psalm 100": for Double Choir, a capella (SATB / SSA)
611. "Jesus Calls Us" SATB choir with or without piano (Commissioned by the MBBC Sanctuary Choir)
612. "Cantate Et Exultate": 2-part treble choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2012 FMEA All State Treble Choir)
613. "The Cremation of Sam McGee": for Treble choir and piano (Commissioned for the Florida Singing Sons)
614. "Shouldn't Have Called Your Name": TTBB choir and soloist, a capella (Commissioned by the BBC Graduate Choristers)
615. "Living For Jesus": Unison choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2010 Tennessee Kid's Choral Connection)
616. "For All Worlds To Hear": SATB choir and piano (fabulous new text!..Commission TBA)
617. "Carol of the Seasons": SATB choir a capella (Commissioned for the BBC Chamber Choristers)
618. "Una Voce": for Treble Choir and piano (Commissioned for the Birmingham Girls Choir)
619. "CWM RHONDDA: "God Of Grace": SATB, piano/organ/brass (Commissioned by Covenant Presbyterian Church)
620. "FOUNDATION: "How Firm A Foundation": SATB piano/organ (Commissioned by Huffman Methodist Church)
621. "EIN FESTE BURG: "A Mighty Fortress": SATB choir and brass (Commissioned by Shorter University)
622. "NICAEA: "Holy, Holy, Holy": SATB choir and brass (Commissioned by Shorter University)
623. "I Choose The Light" SATB choir and piano (or string orchestra) (Commissioned AMIS Middle School Honor Choir and Orchestra)
624. "Stand Tall, O Man!" TTBB Choir and piano (Commissioned the 2012 FLACDA Male Honor Choir)
625. "NATIONAL ANTHEM: The Star-Spangled Banner" SATB / TTBB a capella (Commissioned by the HHS 10 Bucs Worth)
626. "We Would See Jesus": Mixed Choir and piano/organ (Commissioned TBA)
627. "He's Got The Whole World": Treble Choir, soloist and piano (Commissioned by Bella Voce of Mobile Women's Chorus)
628. "O Jesus, I Have Promised": Treble Choir and Piano (for the 2013 Children's Choir of Music & Arts Week at Sumatanga)
629. "Los Pollitos Dicen": Mixed Choir a capella (Commissioned for the Birmingham Boys Choir 2013 Concert Tour to Costa Rica)
630. "Awaken, My Spirit!": 2-part treble choir and piano (for the 2014 IMEA Treble All-State Choir, Linda Berg, Co-Orainator)
631. "The Wren Song": 3-part mixed choir and piano (for the Middle School Honor Choir of the 2014 Austin Peay University Choir Festival)
632. "Great Day!": 2-part treble choir and piano (for the 2014 ACDA Southern Division Elementary Honor Choir, Lynnel Jenkins, Director!)
633. "My Life For Thee": Mixed Choir and piano (Commission TBA)
634. "The Way I Want To Love You": Men's choir and soloist (written for the 71st Wedding Anniversary of Dot and Doyle Rucker)
635. "Sing a Song of Seven Servants": Treble Choir and piano (written for the Shades Crest Baptist Church Young Musicians Choir)
636. "Aaron's Blessing": mostly 2-part Mixed Choir and piano (written for the Shades Crest Baptist Church Youth Choir)
637. "The Gospel Train": mostly 2-part Mixed Choir and piano (Commission by the 2014 Georgia Baptist Children's Music Camp)
638. "Blessed Is The Man": for Men's Choir, soloist and Trumpet Trio (For the Graduate Choristers of the Birmingham Boys Choir)
639. "A Little Minuet": for Unison Choir and Piano (for the 2014 AMEA Elementary Music Festival)
640. "Los Pollitos Dicen": for Treble Choir, piano and light percussion (for the Senior Choristers of the Birmingham Boys Choir)
641. "Haec Dies Quam Fecit Dominum": for Mixed Double Choir a capella (for the Whiteaker Middle School 2014 - 2015 Viva Voce)
642. "A Spring Song": for Treble Choir and piano (Commissioned by the Norman Children's Chorus, Norman OK)
643. "Wade In The Water, Children!": for Treble Choir and piano (for the 2016 Alabama Middle School Treble All-State Choir)
644. "Morning Trumpet": for Treble Choir and piano (for the 2016 Oregon Elementary All-State Choir, John Hillan, Coordinator)
645. "Dies Ist Der Tag": for Mixed Choir, a cappella (for the Humble High School Choir, Adam Hightower, Director)
646. "What a Mornin'!": for Treble Choir and piano (for the 2016 South Carolina Elementary All-State Choir)
647. "Little Light of Mine": For Mixed Choir and piano (for the 2016 South Carolina Middle School ACDA Honor Choir)
648. "The Whole World": For Treble Choir, piano and soloist (for the 2016 "Sing Around Nebraska!" Elementary Honor Choir)
649. "Psalm VIII": for Treble Choir, soloist and piano (for the 2017 OkMEA All-State Children's Chorus, Karissa Parkhurst & Amy Wright, Chairs)
650. "I Will Walk This Way": for Treble Choir and Gospel Piano, optional soloist (Commissioned by the Jefferson County Elementary Schools)
651. "Live A-Humble": for Three-Part Men's Choir and Solo Trio
652. "To Be A Man": for Men's Choir, Piano and Horn (for the 2018 ACDA Southern Division Middle School Men's Honor Choir)
653. "The Wise May Bring Their Learning" Unison Choir and Piano
654. "Sing With Me, Man!" Men's choir, Men's Trio, piano and percussion (for the 2018 ACDA Southern Division Middle School Men's Honor Choir) Co-arranged by SKIP STRADTMAN
655. "Laudamus!" Treble Choir and percussion (for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Georgia Children's Chorus, Carol Reeves, Artistic Director)
656. "Cantate!" Treble Choir and piano, optional Descant, other voicings also available. (for the 2018 Manhattan Concert Productions Children's Chorus Commission)
657. "TE DEUM": Double Choir and Strings
658. "Lux Aeterna": Mixed Choir a capella
659. "Go In The Name of Christ" Mixed Choir a capella (short 30 second introit)
660. "O Señor, En Ti Eh Confiado" 2-part choir, piano and percussion (optional strings/trumpets) Also available SATB a capella
661. "Where The Orange Blossoms Grow" Unison choir and Piano (optional percussion and harmony voices 1 & 2)