

Man Of Truth

Words and Music by Shawn Kirchner

B O O S E Y & H A W K E S

FESTIVAL
MUSIC

F O R

MEN'S
CHOIR

BOOSEY & HAWKES

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PROGRAM NOTES

Man of Truth is a musical declaration of personal integrity for TBB chorus and piano written for the 2018 California All-State High School Men's Honor Choir. The text is original, written in response to a news article about a Russian man who, after a crisis of conscience, quit his job disseminating false information to manipulate public thought in his own country and abroad. The piece, written in an extended song form, is at all times declarative in mood, often employing unison modal melodies and "snap" rhythms for an effect of strength and decisiveness. The piano is an equal partner in conveying the fortitude of the piece, with chords often supported by low octaves in the bass.

TEXT

**I will be a man of truth;
Never will I fear my shadow.**

True to my word, and true in deed,

Never will I fear my shadow;

When my words return to me,

I will not deny them.

And when my deeds are brought to light,

I will own them.

**I will be a man of truth;
Never will I fear my shadow.**

Nor would I bandy in deceit

and trade my face for a disguise –

Nor would I steal away the sun

and take the light from others' eyes;

I'll chart my course by stars eternal,

shining bright in crystal skies.

I'll chart my course by stars eternal,

far beyond the reach of lies.

I call upon their light to light my way,

to lead me back when from my path I stray,

to shine until the darkness turns to day,

and the wind has swept the veiling

clouds away.

I vow to be a man of truth.

**I will be a man of truth;
Never will I fear my shadow.**

Nor would I steal away the sun

and cause another one to stumble.

But if the truth should cause a crumbling

tower to tumble –

Let it fall.

I'll chart my course by stars eternal,

shining bright in crystal skies.

I'll chart my course by stars eternal,

far beyond the reach of lies.

I call upon their light to light my way,

to lead me back when from my path I stray,

to shine until the darkness turns to day,

and the wind has swept the veiling

clouds away.

I vow to be a man of truth.

~Shawn Kirchner

DURATION

Ca. 5 minutes 30 seconds

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Shawn Kirchner is a versatile musician based in Los Angeles whose choral works are sung throughout the world. A member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale since 2001, Kirchner has enjoyed an enduring creative relationship with music director Grant Gershon, resulting in numerous commissions and premieres, and culminating in his tenure as LAMC's Composer in Residence from 2012-2015. As a singer with the Master Chorale, Kirchner has performed with the LA Philharmonic in many collaborations with the world's leading conductors and composers. He is also a member of LAMC's touring company of *Lagrime di San Pietro*, presenting the fully-staged, Peter Sellars-directed Renaissance masterpiece in major international festivals and venues. As a pianist, Kirchner has performed many times at Disney Hall with LAMC and throughout the country in concerts of his music with many choral organizations. He has also assisted at the piano and sung for dozens of feature film soundtrack sessions.

Best known worldwide for his setting of the Kenyan song *Wana Baraka* and other settings of traditional American songs, which have been praised by the LA Times as "arranged with mastery," Kirchner has also produced cycles on the poetry of Pablo Neruda, Sylvia Plath, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and William Blake. His original songwriting ranges in style from jazz and gospel to folk and bluegrass, the latter featured on his CD *Meet Me on the Mountain*. www.ShawnKirchner.com

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Written in honor of the men of the California Choral Directors Association All-State Men's Choir 2018,
Tesda Wondemagegnehu, conductor

MAN OF TRUTH

For TBB and Piano

Words and Music by
Shawn Kirchner

Maestoso ♩ = ca. 56

Tenor *mp marcato*

I will_ be a

Baritone Bass *mp marcato*

I will_ be a

Piano *mp*

Maestoso ♩ = ca. 56

man of truth; nev - er will_ I fear my shad - ow.

man of truth; nev - er will_ I fear my shad - ow.

mf

7 *mf* True to my word, and true in deed; *f* nev - er will I fear my

mf True to my word, and true in deed; *f* nev - er will I fear my

10 *mp* shad - ow. When my words re - turn to me, I will not de -

mp shad - ow. When my words re - turn to me, I will not de -

12 ny them. And when my deeds are brought to light, I will own them.

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