

TAKE HIM, EARTH, FOR CHERISHING

A Motet in Memoriam
By Herbert Howells

This piece was commissioned as a memorial to President John F. Kennedy for a joint Canadian/American Memorial Service soon after the assassination. The piece was completed the following spring, and was first performed November 22, 1964 — the first anniversary of Kennedy's death — by the Choir of the Cathedral of St. George from Kingston, Ontario.



On the cover: The oil on canvas portrait of President John F. Kennedy was painted by Aaron Shikler and is President Kennedy's official White House portrait. The portrait was placed on public display in the East Room of The White House on February 5, 1971.

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To the honoured memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of The United States of America.

TAKE HIM, EARTH, FOR CHERISHING

Motet for Mixed Voices

PRUDENTIUS (348-413)

From *Hymnus circa Exsequias Defuncti*

Translated by Helen Waddell*

HERBERT HOWELLS

Quasi lento, serioso, ma con moto (♩ = 63)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

ACCOMP. (for rehearsal only)

p *poco*

Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, — To thy ten-der breast re -

Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, — To thy ten-der breast re -

Quasi lento, serioso, ma con moto (♩ = 63)

pp *poco*

(♩ = ♩)

mf *f*

ceive him. Bod - y of a man I — bring thee, No -

ceive him. Bod - y of a man I — bring thee, No -

No -

mp *mf*

* By permission.

C. M. R. 2869 - (23)

Made in U. S. A.

poch. *p* *3*

dim. *poch.* *pp* *mf* *3*

Once was this - a

dim. *pp* *p* *3*

- ble e - ven in its ru - in. - Once was this - a

dim. *pp* *mf* *3*

- ble e - ven in its ru - in. - Once was this - a

dim. *poch.* *ppp* *mp* *3*

3

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of

poco

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of God cre -

3

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of

poco

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of God cre -

poco

mf
 God cre - a - ted. High the heart that here was
 a - ted. High the heart that here was
mf
 God cre - a - ted. High the heart that here was
 a - ted. High the heart that here was
mf assai sost.

dim. *p*
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
dim. *p*
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
dim. *p*
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
dim. *p*
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
dim. *p*

Con anima e movimento (♩ = c. 72)

SOP. I

Guard him well, the dead

SOP. II

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Con anima e movimento (♩ = c. 72)

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

più ask - it: *f* He who made it

poco rit.

Sym - bol of His mys - tery.

poco rit.

Sym - bol of His mys - tery.

poco rit.

Sym - bol of His mys - tery.

poco rit.

Sym - bol of His mys - tery.

poco rit.

Sym - bol of His mys - tery.

a tempo, come primo
P dim. *rit.*

a tempo
P dim. *pp* *rit.*

a tempo mf espressivo *dim.* *rit.* *pp*

a tempo
p dim. *rit.*

a tempo
p dim. *rit.*

a tempo, come primo *rit.*

Take him, earth, — for cher-ish-ing.

intenso (♩ = 66)

f *A*

Comes the hour — God — hath ap - point - ed To ful -

Comes the hour God — — — hath ap - point - ed To ful -

Comes the hour —

Comes the

intenso (♩ = 66)

f *A*

fil — the hope — of men, —

fil — the hope — of men, —

To ful - fil the hope — of men, —

hour — ap - point - ed — To ful - fil the hope of men, —

passionato
ff > Then must thou,
ff > Then must thou,
ff > Then must thou,
ff > Then must thou, in ver - y fash - ion,
passionato

largo
 then must thou, then must thou What I
 then must thou, then must thou What I
 then must thou, then must thou What I
 then, then must thou, then What I
largo

- *dim* *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

dim. *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

dim. *pp* *mf Con ruminazione*
 give, — re - turn. — Take him, earth, for

dim. *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

rall. molto

rall. molto *sotto voce*
rall. molto *sotto voce*
 Bod - y of a man I

p *rall. molto, sotto voce*
 cher - ish - ing. — Bod - y of a man I

rall. molto *sotto voce*
 Bod - y of a man I

rall. molto *pp*

un poco rubato, con moto (♩ = c. 69)

SEMI-CHORUS

mp

Not though an-cient time de-cay-ing Wear a-way these bones to sand,

pp (O take him.)

bring *pp* thee. *pp* (O take him.)

bring *pp* thee. *pp* (O take him.)

bring *pp* thee. *pp* (Take-

un poco rubato, con moto (♩ = c. 69)

mp

pp *pp*

mp

Ash-es that a man might meas-ure In the hol-low of his hand:

pp Take, O take him.)

mf espressivo Bod-y of a man I bring thee.) *poco*

him, take him.)

mp

poco a poco più animato

FULL

mf
 Not though - wan - dering
mf
 Not though wan - dering winds and i - dle
mf
 Not though wan - dering
mf
 Not though wan - dering winds and i - dle
poco a poco più animato

winds, Scat - ter dust
 Scat - ter dust
 winds, Scat - ter dust was nerve and
 Drift - ing through the emp - ty - sky

was nerve and sin - ew, Is it
was nerve and sin - ew,
sin - ew, Is it given
Scat - ter nerve and sin - ew, Is it given

given to man to die. *piu*
Is it given to man to die. *piu*
to man to die. *piu*
to man to die. *piu*

elato
f *ff*
 Once a - gain — the shin - ing road Leads to
 Once a - gain — the shin - ing road Leads to
 Once a - gain — the shin - ing road Leads to
 Once a - gain — the road Leads to

rit.
 am - ple Par - a - dise;
 Par a - dise; *rit. più tranquillo*
 am - ple Par - a - dise; *mf dolce*
 am - ple Par - a - dise; *rit. p*
 am - ple Par - a - dise; *rit. p*
 am - ple Par - a - dise; *mf più tranquillo*
 am - ple Par - a - dise; *rit. p*

poco meno mosso (♩ = 60)*mp dolce**pp*

O - pen are the woods a - gain,

*mp dolce**pp*

O - pen are the woods a - gain,

woods a - gain,

pp

woods

a - gain.

mp

- a - dise;

That the

mp(♩ = 60) *mp dolce**mp**mp dolce**p*

O - pen are the woods a - gain

*mp dolce**p*

O - pen are the woods a - gain

*p**poco*

Ser - pent lost for men,

*p**poco**mp**p*

FULL *mp*

That the Ser pent

That the Ser pent

That the Ser pent

mp *sonore* lost

That the Ser pent lost

mp *sonore*

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

lost for men.

rit. *pp*

lost for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

lost for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

Ampio, ma espressivo (♩ = 58)

Take, O take him, - might - y Lead - er, - Take a-

Ampio, ma espressivo (♩ = 58)

gain - thy serv - ant's soul. Grave his name, and

pour the fra - grant Balm

Balm

pour the fra - grant Balm

pour the fra - grant Balm

pour the fra - grant Balm

rall. e dim. *mf* *Tempo I quasi alla marcia* *pp*

up-on the i - cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i - cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i - cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i - cy stone.

Take him, earth, — for

rall. e dim. *mf* *Tempo I quasi alla marcia* *pp*

pp

poco marcato

pp sommessò, teneramente

Take him, earth, for cher - ish - ing, To thy

pp Take him, earth, for cher - ish - ing, To thy

pp Take him, earth, for cher - ish - ing, To thy

cher - ish - ing, Take him to thy ten - der

ten - der breast re - ceive him -

ten - der breast re - ceive him -

ten - der breast re - ceive him -

breast. Bod - y of a man I bring thee.

mf — *poco cresc.*
 Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble

mf — *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble

mf — *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble e - ven

mf — *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble e - ven

mf — *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble e - ven

mf — *poco cresc.*
 — No - ble — e - ven in —

mf — *poco cresc.*

in its ru-in. By the breath of God cre-

in its ru - in. By the breath of God cre-

in its ru - in. By the breath of God cre-

By the breath of God cre-

in its ru - in. By the breath of God cre-

its ru - in. Breath of God cre-

a - ted. *mf* Christ the prince *dim.* of
 a - ted. *mf* Christ the prince *dim.* of
 a - ted. *mf* Christ the prince of *dim.*
 a - ted. *mf* Christ the prince of liv - ing. *dim.*
 a - ted. *mf* *dim.*

The image shows a musical score for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of staves. The first four systems each have a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The fifth system has a piano accompaniment line. The music is in the key of A major (indicated by four sharps) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,". Performance markings include dynamics (*p*, *mf*), *poch.* (poco), and *molto*. A large red watermark "PREVIEW ONLY PURCHASE" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,
all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,
all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,
all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,
Take, O take him,

p *mf* *poch.* *molto*
p *mf* *poch.* *molto*
p *mf* *poch.* *molto*
p *mf* *poch.* *molto*
mf *poch.* *molto*
mf *poch.* *molto*

