

Rhiannon Randle

**THE WINTER IS
PAST**

for unaccompanied SSA choir

2024

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for unaccompanied SSA choir

on excerpts from Song of Solomon 2:10-13.

Duration: 3 minutes.

Commissioned by Edward Wickham and the Girls' Choir of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, who will give the first performance in the Chapel of St. Catharine's, Cambridge, on 25th June 2024.

Composed in association with Eric Tuan and the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, CA, USA who will jointly with the Girls' Choir of St. Catharine's, give the American premiere in 2025.

The composer extends her heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the generous patronage from St. Catharine's College for making this work possible.

In memory of Dale Volberg Reed, American friend of the St. Catharine's Girls' Choir.

TEXT:

Excerpts from **Song of Solomon 2:10-13** in English translation (King James Version).

*Rise up, my love, my fair one,
and come away.*

*For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;*

*Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.*

PROGRAMME NOTE:

“For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;”: the timeless sentiment, as so poetically expressed in the Song of Solomon 2, has captured the imagination of composers for centuries. I composed my own setting during the seasonal rise from winter to spring through the equinoctial point, bearing witness to the burgeoning of life, blossoming of flowers, singing of birds, and the miraculous unfolding of nature to welcome in this most ancient of cycles. The message expressed through the words of the scripture is echoed profoundly by nature: that our land, our earth, our home, is a vital and ever-changing part of the Kingdom of God - a sacred reality that is too often dismissed or overlooked, to the detriment of all.

The musical material is modally inflected and predominantly imitative - vivacious, yet supple, much like the coming of early spring. The three separate vocal lines entwine and break apart, steadily finding their own distinct purpose amidst the unfolding trajectory. The pitch centre of A is a crucial thread underpinning this transformation: while the work begins based on modes on A, the pitch is challenged, reimagined and eventually concedes to modes on D and G. At the pinnacle, a new function of A is revealed: it now sits comfortably as the mediant of the triumphant, final F major chord, much like how nature itself finds its new order with the coming of spring.

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PERFORMANCE NOTE:

The piano part provided is to be used for rehearsal purposes only.

The Winter is Past

for unaccompanied SSA choir

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (KJV)

Rhiannon Randle

♩. = 54 *mp leggiero*

Soprano 1
Rise up, my love, *p* my love, my fair one,

Soprano 2
p my love,

Alto
p my love, my love,

Piano (rehearsal only)
mp leggiero *p*

6

S. 1
and come a - way, a - way, *fp* come a - way. For lo, the

S. 2
p a - way, *fp* way, a - way.

A.
p a - way, *fp* come a come a - way.

Pno.
p *fp* *p leggiero*

10

S. 1 *mf*
win-ter is past, the win - ter is past, _____ is past,

S. 2 *p leggiero* *mf*
For lo, the win-ter is past, _____ is past,

A. *p* *mf* *f*
The win - ter, win - ter _____ is past, the win-ter is

Pno. *p* *mf* *f*

14

S. 1 *mf* *fp* *p*
the win-ter is past, For lo, _____

S. 2 *mf* *fp* *p*
is past, is past, For lo, _____ the

A. *fp* *p*
past, is past, For lo, _____

Pno. *fp* *p*

19 *mp* *p* *mp leggiero*

S. 1
 the win - ter is past, the win - ter is past, the

S. 2
 win - ter is past, is past, the rain,

A.
 is past, the win - ter is past,

Pno.

mp *p*

24 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

S. 1
 rain is o - ver and gone, the rain is o - ver and

S. 2
 the rain is o - ver and gone, and

A.
 the rain is

Pno.

27

warmly *f* *p*

S. 1
gone, the rain is o - ver and gone, is

warmly *f*

S. 2
gone, the rain is o - ver and gone

mf *warmly* *f*

A.
gone, is o-ver and gone, the rain is o - ver and gone,

mf *warmly* *f* *p*

Pno.
is

31

pp

S. 1
o - ver and gone;

p *mf*

S. 2
is o - ver, o - ver and gone;

p *mf* *mp*

A.
and gone, is o - ver, o - ver and gone; the

p *mf* *mp*

Pno.

35 *mp* *mf*

S. 1 The flowers a - ppear on the earth, the earth; The time of the sing-ing of

S. 2 *mp*
The flowers a - ppear on the earth;

A. *mf*
flowers a-ppear on the earth, a - ppear, a - ppear on the earth; The

Pno. *mf*

39 *f* *mf* *f* *p*

S. 1 birds is come, is come, is come, is come, _____

S. 2 *mf* *f* *p*
The time of sing-ing is come, _____ is come, _____ and the

A. *f*
time of sing - ing is _____ come, _____

Pno. *f* *p*

44

S. 1 *p* and the voice, _____ the voice _____ of the tur-tle is

S. 2 _____ voice _____ of the tur-tle _____ is heard _____ *mp*

A. *p* and the voice _____ *mp* is

Pno. *p*

49

S. 1 *fz* *pp* *p* heard _____ is heard in our land, _____

S. 2 _____ *pp* *p* is heard in our land, _____ is heard in our

A. *fz* *pp* *p* heard _____ in our land, our

Pno. *fz* *pp* *p*

53 *mp leggiero*

S. 1
is heard in our land, _____ A - rise, my love, _____

S. 2 *mp leggiero*
land, _____ is heard in our land, _____ A-rise, my love, _____

A.
land, _____ is heard in our land, _____ is heard in our

Pno.

(solo) *mf*

57

S. 1
_____ A rise, my love, _____

S. 2 *mp leggiero* (solo) *mf*
A rise, my love, _____ My love, my fair one, _____

A.
land, _____

Pno. *mf*

63

S. 1 *tutti mp* and come, *mf* come a - way, my

S. 2 *tutti mp* and come *mf* a - way, a - way my

A. *tutti mp* and come *mf* a - way, my

Pno. *mp* *mf*

66

S. 1 *rit.* love, my love, *ff* come a - way. niente

S. 2 *ff* love, my love, and come a - way. niente

A. *ff* love and come, come a - way. niente

Pno. *rit.* *ff*