

We Made a Grave For Him  
TTBB, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## We Made a Grave For Him

for TTBB a cappella choir

Commissioned for BealeCanto of Rhodes College, Dr. William Skoog, artistic director

**Conceived as a two-song set:**

We Made a Grave For Him (TTBB)  
And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (TTTBB)



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## Text:

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms  
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death,  
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms  
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we made  
A grave for him that he might better rest.  
So, Spring shall come and leave it sweet arrayed,  
And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest.

*- Francis Edward Ledwidge (1887-1917),  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers*

## From the Composer:

In 2007 I wrote a piece called “And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever” for Dr. William Skoog, who was then at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The piece was a setting of Walt Whitman, combined with a portion of the Book of Revelation, sung in Latin. The piece is a big investment - close to 7’ long, TTTBB, many things happening at once in some parts. For a while, I wanted to set a Francis Ledwidge poem as a prequel to this piece - something short, homophonic, simple, that would set up the somewhat more complex content of “And Her Smoke...”

In early 2013, I was talking with Bill about his new group at Rhodes College called BealeCanto. They were planning a concert featuring works on texts by Whitman, and not only was he planning to perform “And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever,” but he was also wondering if I would be able to write something new for the group. I told him about this idea, sent him the text, and we were off.

These two pieces are meant to go together, but they can certainly be performed individually. If done together, try to perform them without applause after “We Made a Grave For Him,” with only a few moments in between.

*- Timothy C. Takach, 2013*



Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

# We Made a Grave For Him

Francis Edward Ledwidge

TTBB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

**Measure 1:**  $\text{♩} = 66$ , *p*

**Tenor:** Then in the lull of mid - night, gen - tle arms Lift - ed him

**Bass 1:** Then in the lull of mid - night, gen - tle arms Lift - ed him

**Bass 2:** Then in the lull of mid - night, gen - tle arms Lift - ed him

**Measure 4:** *mp*, *p*

**T:** slow - ly down down the slopes of death,

**B 1:** slow - ly down down the slopes of death,

**B 2:** slow - ly down down the slopes of death,

**Measure 7:** *mp*, *f*

**T:** Lest he should hear a - gain the mad a - larms Of bat - tle, dy - ing

**B 1:** Lest he should hear a - gain the mad a - larms Of bat - tle, dy - ing

**B 2:** Lest he should hear the mad a - larms dy - ing



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10

T 8 *mp* *p* moans, and pain - ful breath. Nn... Nn... Nn...

B 1 *mp* *p* moans, and pain - ful breath. Nn... Nn... Nn...

B 2 *mp* *p* moans, and pain - ful breath. Nn... Nn... Nn...

15

T 8 *mp* *p* *mf* And where the earth was soft for

B 1 *mp* *p* *mf* And where the earth was soft for

B 2 *mp* *p* *mf* And where the earth was soft for

18

T 8 *mp* flow - ers we made A grave for him that he might bet - ter

B 1 *mp* flow - ers we made A grave for him that he might bet - ter

B 2 *mp* flow - ers we made A grave for him that he might bet - ter

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22

T 8 rest. So, Spring shall come Spring shall come So, Spring shall come

T 8 rest. So, Spring shall come So, Spring shall come So, Spring shall

B 1 rest. So, Spring shall come So, Spring shall

B 2 rest. So, Spring shall come So, Spring shall

26

T 8 and leave it sweet ar-rayed, And there the lark shall turn

T 8 come and leave it sweet ar-rayed, And there the lark shall turn

B 1 come and leave it sweet ar-rayed, And there the lark shall turn

B 2 come and leave it sweet ar-rayed, And there the lark shall turn

31

T 8 her dew - y nest. Nn...

B 1 nest. Nn...

B 2 nest. Nn...

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35

T 8 *mf* Nn... Nn... Nn...

B 1 *mf* Nn... Nn... Nn...

B 2 *mf* Nn... Nn... Nn...

39 *p* *ritard* *mp* *pp* Nn... Nn... Nn...

8

8

8

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"We Made a Grave For Him" and "And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever"  
were written as a set, but can be performed separately as well.

20

T  
8  
muse re - tro - spec - tive mur - m'ring a chant in thought,

B  
muse re - tro - spec - tive mur - m'ring a chant in thought,

B  
tus, ne - que cla - mor, ne - que do - lor

20

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25

T  
8  
The war re - sumes, a - gain to my sense your shapes, And a - gain the ad -

B  
The war re - sumes, a - gain to my sense your shapes, And a - gain the ad -

B  
e - rit lo rum. Et mors ul - tra non e - rit, ne -

25

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33

T  
8  
vance of the ar - mies. Noise-less as mists and va -

B  
vance of the ar - mies. Noise-less as mists and va -

B  
que luc - tus, ne - que cla - mor, do - lor Noise-less as mists and va -

33

*rit. mp p*  $\text{♩} = 90$

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## Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

### Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Epitaph		SATB, viola
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

### Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

### Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTTBBB a cappella

### Large Works

We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano