

Joy Never Leaves
GP-H023
SATB, piano

Christopher Harris

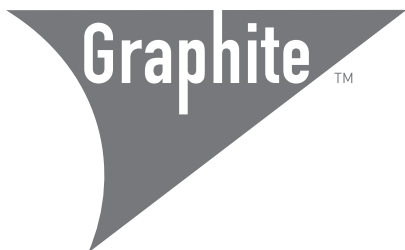
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Christopher Harris

Joy Never Leaves

for SATB choir and piano

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Text:

I am full of tears!!

Tears of joy that seem to well and flow
upon the thought that I carry the promise
of beauty for ashes and life anew.

A plan so delicate that no gentle hand of ours
could place it all in place with grace
to cause it not to break.

Birtherd from faith and made with love, it grows.

Hope nurtures it and peace sustains
the dwelling place as the hymn does
the soul that sings of Thee.

These tears which once fell for loss,
now build a grateful river that runs
through forests of prayer and possibility.

They flow, but joy never leaves.

- Devondra Banks, "Joy Never Leaves." Used with permission

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Joy Never Leaves

for SATB and piano

Devondra F. Banks

Christopher H. Harris

rich, full, declamatory ♩ = 160

Piano

f

pedal harmonically

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The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, marked with a tempo of 160 beats per minute. It features a rich, full, declamatory texture. The right hand plays a series of chords, while the left hand provides a harmonic pedal point. The score is marked with a forte (f) dynamic and includes a 'pedal harmonically' instruction.

rit. *a tempo*

4

S

f

I am full _____ of tears!! _____

A

f

I am full _____ of tears!! _____

T

f

I am full _____ of tears!! _____

B

f

I am full _____ of tears!! _____

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The vocal and piano section begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by a ritardando (rit.) and then returns to the original tempo (a tempo). The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are marked with a forte (f) dynamic and sing the lyrics 'I am full of tears!!'. The piano accompaniment continues with a rich, full texture, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The score includes a 'For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.' watermark and a 'Graphite™' logo.

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9

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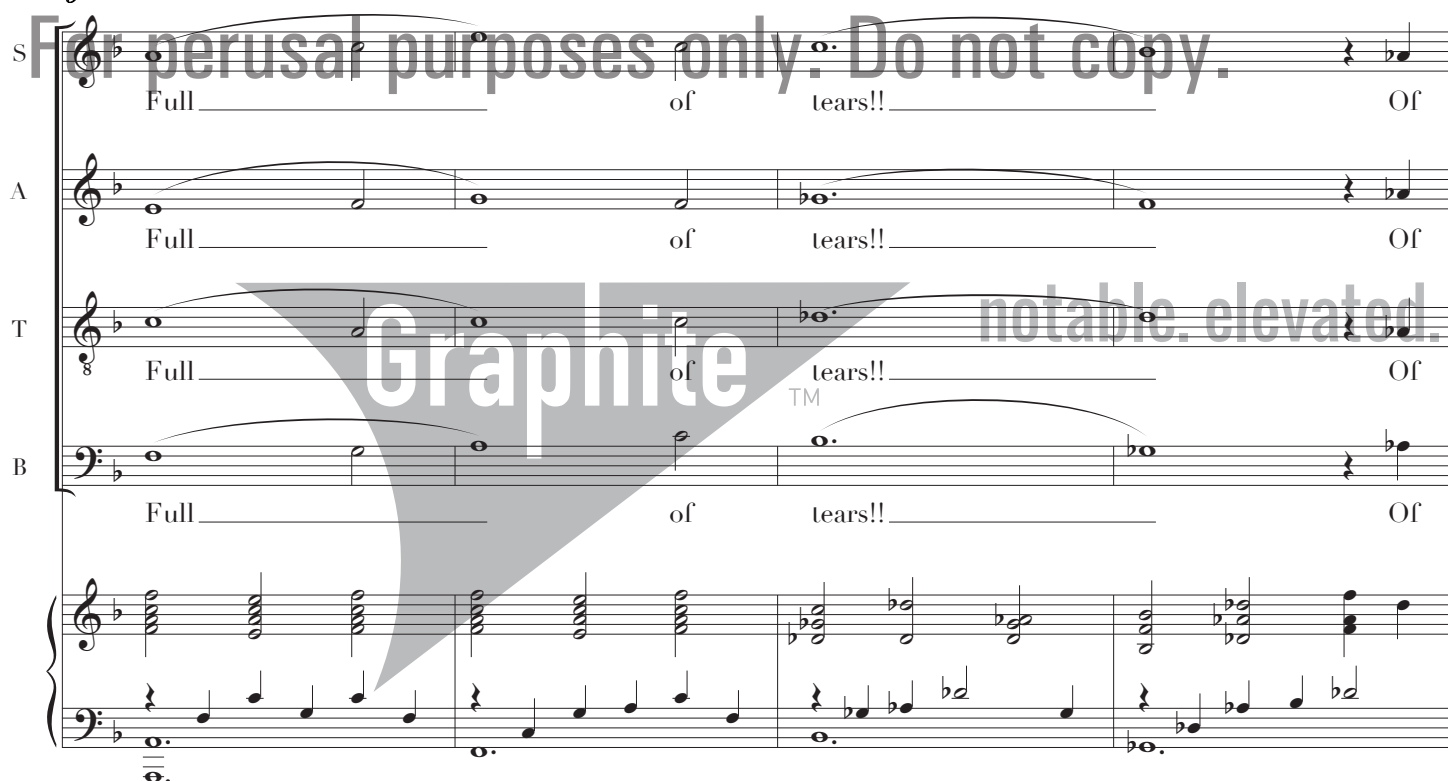
S Full _____ of tears!! _____ Of

A Full _____ of tears!! _____ Of

T Full _____ of tears!! _____ Of

B Full _____ of tears!! _____ Of

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*rit.*

13

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S tears, _____ of tears _____ of

A tears, _____ of tears _____ of

T tears, _____ of tears _____ of

B tears, _____ of tears _____ of

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17 *a tempo*

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S joy, _____ of joy _____

A joy, _____ of joy _____

T joy, _____ of joy _____ that

B joy, _____ of joy _____ that

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21 *mp*

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S that seem to well and flow u - pon the

A that seem to well and flow u - pon the

T seem to well and flow u - pon the thought

B seem to well and flow u - pon the thought

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rit. intimately, more relaxed ♩ = 65

25

S thought that I _____ that I car - ry the pro-mise of

A thought that I, that I car - ry the pro-mise of

T that I car - ry the pro-mise of

B that I car - ry the pro-mise of

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29

S beau - ty for a - shes. Beau - ty for

A beau - ty for a - shes. Beau - ty for

T beau - ty for a - shes. Beau - ty for

B beau - ty for a - shes. Beau - ty for

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32

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S a - shes and life, life,

A a - shes and life, life

T a - shes and life, and

B a - shes and life, life,

mp sfz sfz

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TM

mp sfz sfz

mp sfz

35

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S life, life, life,

A life, and life, life,

T life, and life, life,

B life, life, life,

sfz sfz sfz

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TM

sfz sfz

37 *sfz* *f* *rit.*

S life, and life a -

A life, and life a -

T life, and life a -

B life, and life a -

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40 *as before* *rit.*

S new. A

A new. A

T new. A

B new. A

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expressive with great rubato ♩ = 54

44

S plan so de - li - cate that no gen - tle hand of ours _____ could

A plan so de - li - cate that no gen - tle hand, that no hand of ours _____

T plan so de - li - cate that no gen - tle hand, that no hand of ours

B plan so de - li - cate that no gen - tle hand, that no hand of ours _____

(for rehearsal only through m. 48)

p

47

S place it all in place with grace _____ to cause it not to break.

A place it all _____ with grace to cause it not to break.

T place it all with grace _____ to cause it not to break.

B place it all _____ with grace to cause it not to break.

(play)

50

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S Birthed from faith___ and made with love, it grows. ___

A Birthed from faith___ and made with love, with love___ it grows. ___

T Birthed from faith___ and made with love, with love___ it grows. ___

B Birthed from faith___ and made with love, with love___ it grows. ___

(for rehearsal only through m. 56)

53

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Hope___ nur - tures it___ and peace___ su - stains the dwel - ling

A Hope nur - tures it___ and peace su - stains the dwel - ling

T Hope nur - tures it___ and peace su - stains the dwel - ling

B Hope nur - tures it___ and peace su - stains the dwel - ling

55 *as before* ♩ = ♩

S place as the hymn does the soul that sings of Thee. _____

A place as the hymn does the soul that sings of Thee. _____

T place as the hymn does the soul that sings of Thee. _____

B place as the hymn does the soul that sings of Thee. _____

(play)

59 *declamatory* ♩ = 160

S _____

A _____

T _____

B _____

*rit.**a tempo*

63

mf *f*

S These tears which once fell _____ for

A These tears which once fell _____ for

T These tears which once fell _____ for

B These tears which once fell _____ for

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67

S loss now build a grate - ful ri - ver that

A loss now build a grate - ful ri - ver that

T loss now build a grate - ful ri - ver that

B loss now build a grate - ful ri - ver that

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71

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S runs through prayer and pos - si -

A runs through fo - rests of prayer and pos - si -

T runs through fo - rests of prayer and pos - si -

B runs through fo - rests of prayer and pos - si -

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75

*molto rit.**a tempo*

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S bi - li - ty. They flow, they

A bi - li - ty. They flow, they

T bi - li - ty. They flow, they

B bi - li - ty. They flow, they

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79

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S flow but joy ne - ver

A flow but joy ne - ver

T flow but joy ne - ver

B flow but joy ne - ver

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83

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S leaves. They flow, they flow.

A leaves. They flow, they flow.

T leaves. They flow, they flow.

B leaves. They flow, they flow.

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88

S *sfz* These tears

A *sfz* These tears

T *sfz* These tears

B *sfz* These tears

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91

S *f* flow! *ff*

A *f* flow! *ff*

T *f* flow! *ff*

B *f* flow! *ff*

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rit.

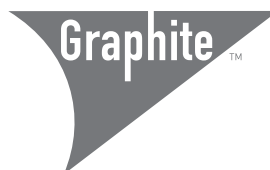
Christopher H. Harris



Dr. Christopher Harris, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, is currently the Director of Choral Studies at Arkansas Tech University. He received his PhD in Choral Music Education from Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL, his Master's in Choral Conducting from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, and his Bachelor's in Music Education from Texas Southern University in Houston, TX and is quite active as a music educator, conductor, performer, adjudicator, and choral composer. He is a published composer with several accolades including winner of both the Eastern and National Divisions of the 2013 National Association for Music Education Composition Competition, and the Grand Prize Winner of the 2016 Ithaca College Choral Composition Competition. His music has been performed internationally by mixed, men's, and treble choirs of varied ages and abilities. Most recently Harris was honored through the selection of his music for performance by the 2018 Texas All-State Mixed Choir, the 2018 Southwest American Choral Directors Association Honor's Men's Choir, the 2018 Arkansas Intercollegiate Choir, and the 2019 Arkansas All-State Mixed Choir and New York All-State Mixed Choir.

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