

Tides
GP-W007
SATB, violin, viola, piano

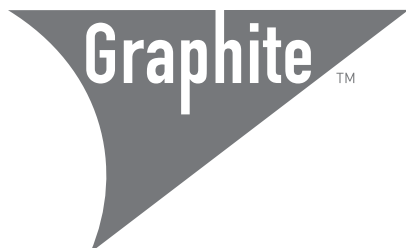
Reginal Wright

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Reginal Wright

Tides

for SATB choir, violin, viola and piano



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Text:

When we are tethered to fear we cannot hope
to abolish injustice;
courage gains ground
only when we recognize it beneath our own feet.

You can't test the parting of the sea
without setting foot on to the sand.
Faith in the potential
is the only way to reclaim humanity.

While caution and division
shout above the waves;
hope is the tide that rises
again
and again
persistent even in retreat
already planning to rush in once more.

A chance - to try again
Try again,
better this time
more compassionate this time,
more loving this time,
more understanding this time.

We should be the sea
that never tires of returning to the shore;
that retreats and gathers strength
to fight
again
and again.

Washed clean - not forgotten;
forgiven, to try again
better this time; compassionate this time,
loving this time, understanding
this time.

- Cara Cullen

From the Poet:

I wrote "Tides" in the fall of 2020 when our country felt so fractured: the increasing threat of COVID; the continued wrestling with racial and social injustice; political division and anger that was reaching fevered pitch. Everyone was so loud, yet we couldn't hear what was being said. It was hard some days to engage with the bombardment of hurt and anger, loss and grief, division and so, so much fear. It was in one of those moments, when I felt paralyzed by hopelessness, that I framed the piece that would become "Tides." I needed a reason to keep loving well and leaning in

to my neighbors and listening, even when I didn't agree. I needed hope. We are all broken and hurting in different ways; we are all capable of allowing sound discourse to succumb to a wave of fear. I've found that when I am willing to turn down the noise and listen with patience and compassion, I can really hear people. I still may not agree, but I can engage. It's when we give up trying have we truly lost.

- Cara Cullen, 2021

From the Composer:

The inspiration for the musical elements presented in "Tides" was derived during the social unrest following the events of 2020. The collective entrenchment of dueling idealisms led to a futility of meaningful dialogue. This dialogue becomes the musical basis of this piece.

"Tides" begins with a piano ostinato that depicts the occurrences of the past few years laced with violin and viola that paint the vision of the 2 sides presenting their points in the court of public opinion. This is immediately followed by shouts of injustice and the noise of riots and protests across the country. You'll hear the waves of turbulence and uncertainty which finally gives away to the rising tide of hope. This theme is interspersed through the remainder of the song as we come to the realization that we can try again: better this time, more compassionate this time, more loving this time, more understanding this time.

Of course, the well of emotions in Wilbye's madrigal is truly inspiring, and I've endeavoured to capture this melancholy and irony in my own version for 8 voices. Additionally, I've tried to add a sense of mystery and gravitas as a personal expression of my own unrequited love. The work opens with a sparse texture featuring two solo sopranos, gradually becoming richer and darker in colour as the music unfolds. The music swells similar to the Wilbye, but as it falls (or "drowns"), jazz harmonies offer intimacy and warmth, a kind of musical escapism from the pains of love and loss, before transitioning back to the mystery of the opening.

- Reginal Wright, 2021

For the SFA A Cappella Choir, Dr. Michael Murphy, conductor.

This commission was made possible through the generous donations of Mary Ann Naranjo in honor of her daughter, Mary Katherine Naranjo, in her fight for equality and racial justice, and the Mu Xi Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha.

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Tides

Cara Cullen

for SATB choir, violin, viola, and piano

Reginal Wright

Freely ♩ = 66

Violin

Viola

Piano

mp

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TM

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Vln. *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *f* *mf* *f*

S *f* *mf* *f*

A *f* *mf* *f*

T *f* *mf* *f*

B *f* *mf* *f*

cou - rage, cou - rage gains ground, on - ly re - cog - nize it

cou - rage, cou - rage gains ground, when we re - cog - nize it

cou - rage, cou - rage gains ground, re - cog - nize it

cou - rage, cou - rage gains ground, re - cog - nize it

f *mf* *f*

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Vln. *mf* *f* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mp*

S *mf* *f* *mp*

A *mf* *f* *mp*

T *mf* *f* *mp*

B *mf* *f* *mp*

be - neath our feet, be - neath our feet. You

be - neath our feet, be - neath our feet. You

be - neath our feet, be - neath our feet. You

be - neath our feet, be - neath our feet. You

mf *f* *mp*

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Vln. 18 *mp* *mf*

Vla. 18 *mp* *mf*

S 18 can't test the part-ing, test the part-ing of the sea with-out *mf*

A 18 can't test the part-ing, test the part-ing of the sea with-out *mf*

T 8 You can't test the part-ing of the sea, the sea, *mp* *mf*

B 8 You can't test the part-ing of the sea, the sea, *mp* *mf*

18 *mp* *mf*

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Vln. 22

Vla. 22

S 22 set-ting foot on sand. Faith is the on-ly way to re-

A 22 set-ting foot on sand. Faith is the on-ly way to re-

T 22 foot on sand. Faith in the po-ten-tial on-ly way *TM*

B 22 foot on sand. Faith in the po-ten-tial on-ly way

22 3 6

3

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Vln. 36

Vla. 36

S 26

A 26

T 8

B

claim hu - man - i - ty. and di -

claim hu - man i - ty. While cau - tion

to re-claim hu - man - i - ty. Cau - tion,

to re-claim hu - man - i - ty. Cau - tion, di -

26

f *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

f *sub mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

f *sub mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

f *sub mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

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Vln. 30

Vla. 30

S 30

A 30

T 8

B 30

vis - ion shout, shout a - bove the waves;

shout, shout a - bove the waves;

cau - tion and di - vis - ion shout a - bove the waves;

vis - ion, shout, waves:

30

cresc. poco a poco *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

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Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

S *f*

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

gain, per - sis - tent ev-en in re - treat al-read-y plan - ning to rush in once

gain, per - sis - tent ev-en in re - treat al-read-y plan - ning to rush in once

gain, per - sis - tent ev-en in re - treat rush in once

gain, per - sis - tent ev-en in re - treat rush in once

f 3 3 3

rit. a tempo

Vln. *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mp*

S *f* *mp*

A *f* *mp*

T *f* *mp*

B *f* *mp*

more. A chance to try a - gain,

more. A chance to try a - gain,

more. A chance to try a - gain,

more. A chance to try a - gain,

more. A chance to try a - gain,

rit. a tempo

f *mp*

3 3 3 3 3

6

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

S *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

A *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

T *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

B *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

bet-ter this time, more com-pas-sion-ate this time, more lov-ing this time, more

bet-ter this time, more com-pas-sion-ate this time, more lov-ing this time, more

bet-ter this time, more com-pas-sion-ate more lov-ing this time, this

bet-ter this time, more com-pas-sion-ate more lov-ing this time, this

mf

f

f

f

f

f

Vln. *rit.*

Vla. *mf*

S *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

un-der-stand-ing. We should be the sea, tires_of re-turn-ing

un-der-stand-ing. We should be the sea, tires_of re-turn-ing

time. That ne-ver tires_of re-turn-ing,

time. That ne-ver tires_of re-turn-ing,

rit.

a tempo

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Vln.

Vla.

S

A

T

B

53

back to the shore;

tires of re-turn - ing back to the shore;

Oh,

Oh,

mp cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

TM

56 *mp cresc. poco a poco*

S that re-treats and gath - ers strength, Oh

A strength, Oh

T Oh, that re-treats and gath - ers

B that re-treats and gath - ers strength

56

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Vln. *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

S *mp* *f*
that re - treats and gath - ers strength to fight a - gain, and a - gain, _____

A *f*
Oh _____ the strength to fight a - gain, and a - gain, _____

T *f*
strength, Oh the strength to fight a - gain, and a - gain, _____

B *f*
Oh, _____ the strength to fight a - gain, and a - gain, _____

63

f

ad libitum

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

S *mp*
and a - gain. _____ Washed clean, not for - got - ten; _____ for - giv - en, _____

A *mp*
and a - gain. _____ Washed clean, washed clean, _____ for - giv - en, _____

T *mp*
and a - gain. _____ Washed clean, washed clean, not for - got - ten _____ to

B *mp*
and a - gain. _____ Washed clean, washed clean, _____ for - giv - en, _____ to

63

f

ad libitum

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Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

S. *mp*

A. *mp*

T. *mp*

B. *mp*

bet - ter this time, this time, this

try a - gain this time, com - pas - sion - ate this time, this

try a - gain this time, bet - ter this time, this

try a - gain this time, this time, com - pas - sion - ate this

69

rit.

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

S. *mp*

A. *mp*

T. *mp*

B. *mp*

time, lov - ing this time, un - der - stan - ding this

time, un - der - stan - ding this

lov - ing this time, this un - der - stan - ding this

time, un - der - stan - ding this

72

rit.

8va

mp

a tempo

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Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *mp*

B *mp*

time, This time,

time, This time,

time, This time,

time, This time,

a tempo

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Vln. *rit.*

Vla. *pp*

S *p* *pp*

A *p* *pp*

T *p* *pp*

B *p* *pp*

This time, this time.

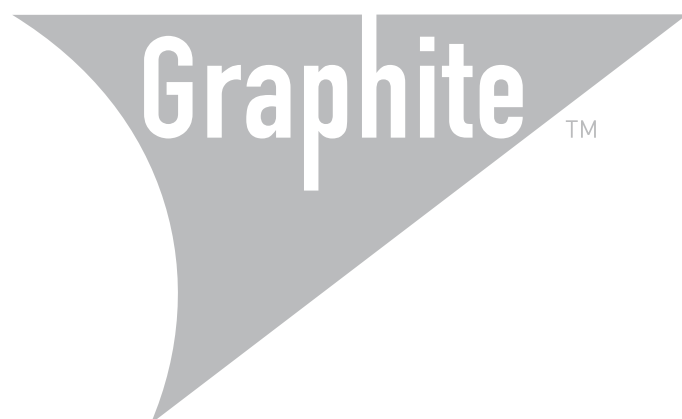
This time, this time.

This time, this time.

This time, this time.

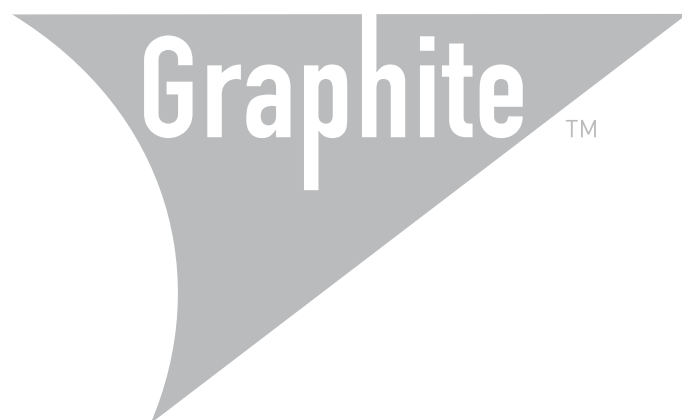
rit.

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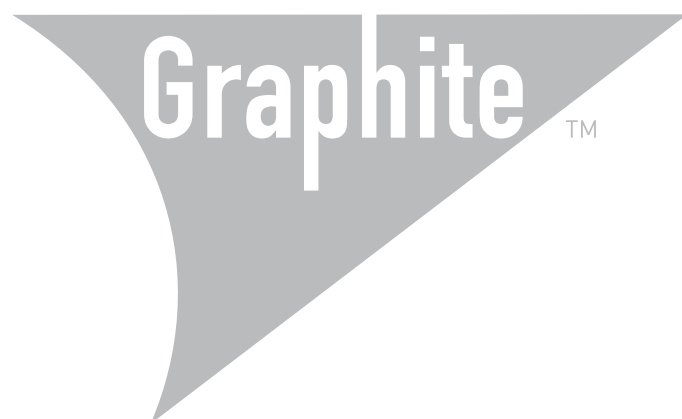
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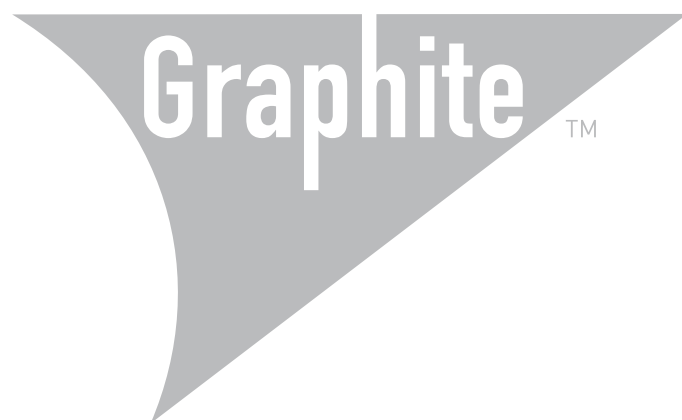
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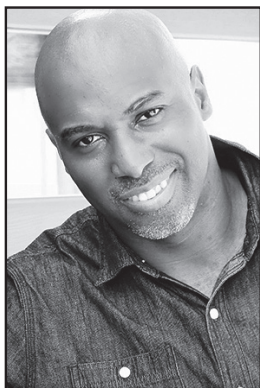
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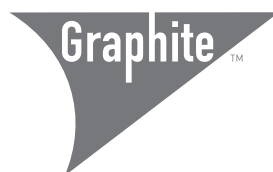
Reginal Wright



Reginal Wright has served over 20 years as a public school teacher. As an educator, Reginal has earned many awards including Outstanding Teacher, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, and the Secondary Educator of the Year Award. Reginal has performed music throughout Europe and the United States. As a conductor, he is sought after as a clinician in both middle and high school and has enjoyed the opportunity to conduct honor choirs throughout the United States. As a composer, Reginal's works have been commissioned by middle school, high school, college, and professional choirs. His works have been performed by All-State Choirs and invited convention choirs. His "Invictus" was performed in the 2021 ACDA National Convention and by the 2022 Texas All-State Tenor-Bass Choir. His "Where are the Bodies" was performed at Carnegie Hall in collaboration with Dallas-based Turtle Creek Chorale. Reginal's works are published and distributed through Graphite Publishing, BriLee, Carl Fisher, Graphite, Hal Leonard, Oxford University Press, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Reginal Wright Music. Reginal received both his Bachelor's and Master's of Music Education Degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Most recently, he was the head choral director at Mansfield High School and is currently on the music staff at Baylor University. Reginal resides in Arlington, Texas with his wife, Renetta, son, Gabrien, daughter, Reece, and Yorkie, Cooper.

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