



SAUNDER  
CHOI

# WELCOME TABLE

for SMATBB *a cappella*



SAUNDER CHOI *music*



## PROGRAM NOTES:

I decided to write *Welcome Table* as a follow up to my pieces *New Colossus* and *Give You Rest* (both written for the L.A. Choral Lab) to form a set called *Songs of Welcome*, my personal and continuing musical reflections on being an immigrant in this country.

As a BIPOC, gay immigrant, I often wonder if I will ever be truly welcome in this country. Tensions surrounding immigration are at an all time high, with mothers being separated with their kids, children in detention cells, visa bans; even the legal immigrant status is threatened (as in H1-B workers and F-1/M-1 visa holders a.k.a international students). It seems that people are confusing nationalism and love for country with xenophobia and hatred.

*Welcome Table* is inspired by and reflects on the civil rights spiritual “I’m Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table,” examining it from the eyes of an immigrant and the other. Perhaps one of these days, we will all be welcome at the table.

*Welcome Table* is commissioned through Consortio by the following commissioners:

Michael Alfera, L.A. Choral Lab  
Jo-Michael Scheibe, USC Chamber Singers  
Dan Perkins, New Hampshire Master Chorale  
Jeremy Mims, Winthrop University Chorale  
Jon Hurty, Augustana Choir  
Erik Peregrine, Ensemble Companio  
Nicholle Andrews, University of Redlands Chapel Singers  
Tim DeBoer, Joliet West High School Concert Choir  
Salvatore Diana, The Salvatones  
Karen P. Thomas, Seattle Pro Musica

## WELCOME TABLE

Am I welcome?  
Am I welcome to sit at the table and eat with you,  
Drink with you, feast on milk and honey with you?  
Am I welcome?

Are they welcome too?  
Are we welcome to sit together as all kinds of people do?  
The poor, the hungry, the homeless, refugees?  
Are they welcome too?

Are you satisfied?  
Are you satisfied with the world that you live in?  
Are you satisfied with your wealth, money, and power?  
That you eat and never get hungry.  
Are you satisfied?

Or are you hungry?  
Hungry for wealth, money, power?  
Hungry for everything your privilege gets you, un giving and unforgiving?  
Are you hungry?

Am I worthy?  
Am I self-sufficient?  
Able to stand on my own two feet, and dream with you, hope with you,  
Love with you?

Am I welcome?  
Am I welcome to sit at the table and eat with you,  
Drink with you, feast on milk and honey with you?  
Perhaps one of these days.

commissioned through Consortio commissioning consortium  
(full list of commissioners on the cover page)

# Welcome Table

for SMATBB a cappella

words and music by  
Saunder Choi

Slow and lilting ♩. = 50ca

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

Bass

*p*

*p*

*p*

Am I wel-come? Am I wel-come to sit at the ta - ble\_\_\_ and

Am Am I?

Am Am I?

Perusal Score

5

S.

M.

A. eat with you,— drink with you,— feast on milk and ho-ney with you?

T. eat, drink, feast with you?

Bar. eat, drink, feast with you?

B.

10

S. wel - come(mm) mm sit

M. Am I wel - come? Am I wel - come to sit at the ta - ble and

A. wel - come(mm) mm

T. Am Am I?

Bar. Am Am I?

B. Am Am

14 rit. . . . .

S. eat, drink, feast with you?

M. eat with you, drink with you, feast on milk and ho-ney with you?

A. eat, drink, feast with you?

T. eat, drink, feast with you?

Bar. eat, drink, feast with you?

B. eat, drink, feast with you?

19 **A** a tempo, più mosso ♩. = 54

S. *p* Am I wel - come? Am I wel - come? Am I wel - come?

M. *p* Am I? Am I wel - come? Am I?

A. *p* Am I? Am I? Am I?

T. *p* Am I wel - come? (mm)

Bar. *p* Am I wel - come? (mm)

B. *p* Am I wel - come? (mm)

B

24

S. *mp*  
Am I wel - come? Are they wel - come?

M. *mp*  
Am I wel - come? Are they?

A. *mp*  
Am I? Are they?

T. *mf*  
Am I wel - come? Are they wel-come too?

Bar. *mp*  
Am I wel - come? Are they

B. *mp*  
Am I wel - come? Are they

30

S. Are they wel - come? Are they wel - come?

M. Are they wel - come? Are they?

A. Are they wel - come? Are they?

T. Are we wel-come to sit to-ge-ther as all kinds of peo-ple do? All kinds of peo-ple do?

Bar. wel - - come? All peo-ple do. All peo-ple do.

B. wel - - come? All peo-ple do. All peo-ple do.

35

S. *p* Are they wel - come? — The poor, *mf* the hun - gry, — the

M. *p* Are they wel - come? — The poor, *mf* the hun - gry, — the

A. *p* Are they wel - come? — The poor, *mf* the hun - gry, — the

T. *p* — All kinds of peo-ple. — *cresc.* All kinds of peo-ple. — *mf* All kinds of peo-ple. —

Bar. *p* — All kinds of peo-ple. — *cresc.* All peo-ple — *mf* All peo-ple —

B. *p* — All peo-ple. — *cresc.* All peo-ple — *mf* All peo-ple —

41

S. *poco f* home - less, — re - fu - gees? — Are they wel - come too?

M. *poco f* home - less, — re - fu - gees? — Are they wel - come? too?

A. *poco f* home - less, — re - fu - gees? — Are they wel - come? too?

T. *poco f* — Peo - ple Are they wel-come too? — Are they wel-come too?

Bar. *poco f* — All — peo - ple Are they wel-come too? — Are they wel-come too?

B. *poco f* — Peo - ple Are they wel-come too? — Are they wel-come too?

46 *mp*

S. Are they wel-come too?\_\_\_\_\_

M. *mp 2* Are they wel-come too?\_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp 2* Are they wel-come too?\_\_\_\_\_

T. *mp* Are they wel - come too?\_\_\_\_\_

Bar. *mp* Are they wel - come too?\_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp* Are they wel - come too?\_\_\_\_\_

Are they wel - come too?\_\_\_\_\_

52 **C** *p* *pp*

S. Are you sa-tis-fied\_\_\_\_\_ with the world that you live in?\_\_\_\_\_ Wealth,\_\_\_\_\_

M. *p* *pp* Are you sa-tis-fied?\_\_\_\_\_ World\_\_\_\_\_ you live in\_\_\_\_\_ Wealth,\_\_\_\_\_

A. *p* *pp* Are you sa-tis-fied?\_\_\_\_\_ World\_\_\_\_\_ you live in\_\_\_\_\_ Wealth.\_\_\_\_\_

T. *pp head voice 2* *p* Are you sa-tis-fied?\_\_\_\_\_ Are you sa-tis-fied.

Bar. *pp head voice 2* *p bring out in texture* Are you sa-tis-fied?\_\_\_\_\_ Are you sa-tis-fied.

B. *pp head voice 2* *p* Are you sa-tis-fied?\_\_\_\_\_ Are you sa-tis-fied.



65

S. *mp* Are you sa - tis - fied? *cresc. poco a poco* Are you sa - tis - fied?\_

M. *mp* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied? *cresc. poco a poco* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied?\_

A. *mp* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied?\_ *cresc. poco a poco* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied?\_

T. hun - gry. Ne - ver get hun - gry, *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Bar. hun - gry. Hun - gry, *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

B. hun - gry, hun - gry. Ne - ver get

69

S. *mf* Are you sa - tis - fied?\_ *rall.* Sa - tis - fied?\_

M. *mf* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied?\_ Sa - tis - fied?\_

A. *mf* 2 Are you sa - tis - fied?\_ Sa - tis - fied?\_

T. hun - gry, hun - gry. *mf*

Bar. hun - gry. Ne - ver get hun - gry. *mf*

B. hun - gry, hun - gry. *mf*

**D** Furioso  $\text{♩} = 50$ 

73 *ff*

S. Or are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for wealth, — po - wer. Hun- gry for

M. Or are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for wealth, mo- ney, and pow'r? Are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for

A. Or are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for wealth, mo- ney, and pow'r? Are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for

T. Or are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for wealth — Are you hun - gry? —

Bar. Or are you hun- gry? Hun - gry for mo- ney, and pow'r? Are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for

B. Or are you hun- gry? Hun - gry — Are you hun- gry? Hun- gry for

79 *poco più mosso*

S. *sub. mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
 ev-'ry-thing your pri-vi-lege gets you. Un - gi - ving, un - for - gi - ving Un -

M. *sub. mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
 ev-'ry-thing your pri-vi-lege gets you. Un - gi - ving, un - for - gi - ving Un -

A. *mf*  
 ev-'ry - thing — Hun-ry for ev-'ry-thing your pri-vi-lege gets you. —

T. *sub. mp*  
 your pri-vi-lege gets you. — Un - for - gi - ving. —

Bar. *sub. mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
 ev - 'ry - thing. Un - for - gi - ving, un -

B. *sub. mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
 ev - 'ry - thing. Un - for - gi - ving, un -

86

S. *mf*  
gi - ving, un - for - gi - ving Un - gi - ving,

M. *poco f*  
gi - ving, un - for - gi - ving. Hun-gry for ev - 'ry -

A. *poco meno* *poco f*  
Un - for - gi - - ving. Hun-gry for ev - 'ry - thing your

T. *mf*  
Hun-gry for ev - 'ry - thing your pri - vi-lege gets you. Un - gi - ving,

Bar. *mf*  
for - - gi - - ving, Un - gi - ving,

B. *mf*  
for - - gi - - ving, un - - for - -

91

S. *rall.* *ff sempre*  
un - for - gi - - ving. Are you hun - gry—

M. *ff sempre*  
thing your pri - vi-lege gets you. Are you hun - gry—

A. *ff sempre*  
pri - vi-lege gets you. Hun - - gry Are you hun - gry—

T. *ff sempre*  
un - for - gi - - ving. Are you hun - gry—

Bar. *ff sempre*  
un - for - gi - - ving. Are you hun - gry—

B. *ff sempre*  
gi - - - ving. Are you hun - gry—

96 [E] Reflective ♩ = 48

S. *pp*  
Am

M. *p* *pp*  
Am I wor- thy? Am I self- suf- fi- cient? Am

A. *p* *pp*  
Am Am Am

T. *p* *pp*  
Am Am Am

Bar. *p*  
Am I wor- thy?

B.

102

S. *mp*  
I a- ble to stand on my own two feet and

M. *mp*  
I a - - - - ble to

A. *mp*  
I a - - - - ble to

T. *mp*  
I a- ble to stand on my own two feet, and

Bar. *mp*  
Am I self- suf- fi- cient? A - - - - ble to

B. *mp*  
A - - - - ble

108 *p* *mp*

S. dream with you,— hope with you,— love with you?—

M. dream,— hope,— love with you?—

A. dream,— hope,— love with you?—

T. dream,— hope,— love you

Bar. dream,— hope,— love you

B. hope,— love you

**F** Tempo I ♩. = 50

113 *p* *pp*

S. Am I wel - come? Per-haps one of these days— \*m/n....

M. \*m/n... Per-haps one of these days—

A. mm Am I wel - come? Per-haps one of these

T. mm Am I

Bar. mm

B. mm

*\*closed mouth, flutter tongue rapidly between 'm' and 'n'*

Solo Tenor (Immigrant)

118

Solo *mp*  
Am I wel- come?

S.

M. *pp*  
\*m/n..... m/n.....

A. *pp* *p*  
days \*m/n..... Per-haps one of these

T. *pp*  
wel - come? Per-haps one of these days \*m/n.....

Bar. *pp*  
Per-haps one of these days \*m/n.....

B. *pp*  
Am I wel - come? (mm) \*m/n.....

123

Solo  
Am I wel-come to sit at the ta - ble and eat with you, drink with you,

S. *p*  
Per-haps one of these

M. *p* *pp*  
Per-haps one of these days m/n.....

A. *pp*  
days m/n.....

T.

Bar. m/n.....

B.

