

grip
TTBB chorus and optional drum
CANTUS-011

Scott Senko

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grip

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Text

"grip (v.)" by Levi Todd (They/Them)

*Old English grippan "to grip, seize, obtain" (class I strong verb; past tense grap, past participle gripen), from West Germanic *gripanan (source also of Old High German gripfen "to rob," Old English gripan "to seize;" see gripe (v)).*

knowing that this is likely the one time ever
that me and a new strange man who I do not wish to befriend
or beloved will touch I feel a certain guilt when the inevitable failure
happens the potential intimacy dropped and floundering
on the floor like a gilled thing i rack my brain for the index
of handshakes tattered and fading my fingers
slipping through holes this unspoken treaty requires
we both read each other estimate what kind of men
we are if at all whether to extend hands and tersely shake
distance kept or rather to clasp palms wound
against the thumbs and slip into fingertips or perhaps
just clap and bump knuckles i'm telling you
they want to know whether i am one of them
and what kind which ranks i march with whose allegiance
i pledge and i have no answer the proof is in the fumble
still i would like to give this moment the chance
it deserves we could make it work i think
i think we could but there are so many options
and knowing which one to pick like the rosiest apple
from the bushel would require me to get to know them
enough to do this a second time

From the Composer

The first time I read "i'm telling you // they want // to know // whether i am one of them // and what kind" I felt the urge to look over my shoulder. Handshakes have always felt loaded to me. They are a brief moment of physical contact with a stranger, often a means for people (particularly men) to size each other up, and a microcosm of how we relate to each other. Levi Todd encapsulates this loadedness perfectly in *grip (v.)*, outlining the pressure of a first impression, feelings of trepidation and guardedness, wondering how your expression of self will be received by another, what assumptions they will make about you, the safety implications of such assumptions, and of course: the desire to connect. I knew immediately that this needed to be a piece for tenor-bass chorus.

The drum line is entirely optional, but increases the piece's impact, running like an anxious heartbeat through the performance. The line was written with a large symphonic bass drum in mind, but any low, unpitched drum will work. Cantus used a buffalo drum in the premiere.

Biography

Scott Senko (b. 1992) is a composer and vocalist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has received commissions from The Esoterics, the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, the Source Song Festival, Constellation Men's Ensemble, The Singers - MCA, and One Voice Chorus of Charlotte as well as performances of his music from Cantus, Choral Arts Initiative, MPLS (imPulse), the choir at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, and Vox Nova Chorale. He also served as Composer-In-Residence with Magnum Chorum 2016-2017.

Scott is a 2015 graduate of Luther College where he studied composition with Brooke Joyce and Steve Smith. He has had composition lessons with Daniel Kallman, Libby Larsen, Jocelyn Hagen, Jake Runestad, Dale Trumbore, Dominick DiOrio, and received extensive mentorship from Edie Hill.

As a tenor, Scott has sung with a number of vocal ensembles in the Twin Cities. Currently, he sings with The Singers, MPLS (imPulse), and the Cathedral of Saint Paul Schola Cantorum.

grip

for TTBB chorus and optional drum

Levi Todd

Scott Senko

Cautious, calculated (♩ = 112–116)

Low Drum (optional)

p

mp

Tenor 1

know - ing that this is like - ly the one time e - ver that this is

Tenor 2

mp

that this is like - ly the one time know - ing that this is

Piano
for rehearsal only

Dr.

1. 2.

T. 1

like - ly the one time know - ing that this is like - ly the one time know - ing that this is

T. 2

like - ly the one time e - ver that this is like - ly the one time e - ver that this is

Bar.

p

know - ing

B.

p

know - - -

Pno.

grip

8

Dr. *mp*

T. 1 *p*
like - ly___ the one time know - ing that this is like - ly___ the one time

T. 2 *p*
like - ly___ the one time e - ver that this is like - ly___ the one time

Bar. *mp*
that me and___ a new strange man___

B.
- - ing

Pno.

11

Dr.

T. 1
e - ver that this is like - ly___ the one time know - ing that this is

T. 2
know - ing that this is like - ly___ the one time e - ver that this is

Bar.
that me and___ a

B. *mp*
that me and___ a new strange man___

Pno.

grip

14

Dr.

T. 1
like - ly__ the one time e - ver that this is like - ly__ the one time

T. 2
like - ly__ the one time know - ing that this is like ly__ the one time

Bar.
new strange man that me and_ a new strange man__

B.
that me and_ a new strange man__ that me and_ a

Pno.

17

Dr.

T. 1
mf who i

T. 2
e - ver *mf* who i

Bar.
that me and_ a new strange man that me and_ a new strange man

B.
new strange man that me and_ a new strange man that me and_ a

Pno.

grip

21

Dr.

T. 1
do not_ wish_ to be - friend or_ be - love who i do not_ wish_ to be -

T. 2
do not_ wish_ to be - friend or_ be - love who i do not_ wish_ to be -

Bar.
that me and a new strange man_ that me and_ a

B.
new strange man_ that me and_ a new strange man_

Pno.

24

Dr.

T. 1
- friend or_ be - love will touch _____ *p* round and hollow, like water glasses
i feel a cer - tain

T. 2
- friend or_ be - love will touch _____ *p* round and hollow, like water glasses
i feel _____

Bar.
new strange man will touch _____ *p* round and hollow, like water glasses
i feel a cer - tain

B.
that me and_ will touch _____ *p* round and hollow, like water glasses
i feel _____

Pno.

grip

30

Dr. *p mp p*

T. 1
nn guilt i feel a cer - tain guilt

T. 2
a cer - tain nn guilt i feel a cer - tain guilt

Bar.
nn guilt i feel a cer - tain guilt

B. *mp* legato
a cer - tain nn guilt i feel a cer - tain guilt when - nn the in -

Pno.

34

Dr.

T. 1 *mf*
the po -

T. 2 *mp* legato
when - nn the in - e - vi - ta - ble fail - ure hap - pen - (nn)s

Bar. *mp* legato *p*
when - nn the in - e - vi - ta - ble fail - ure hap - en - (nn)s i

B. *p*
- e - vi - ta - ble fail - ure hap - en - (nn)s i feel a

Pno.

grip

37

Dr.

T. 1 *p* *mp*

T. 2 *p* *mp*

Bar. *p* *mp*

B. *p* *mp*

Pno.

41

Dr. *mp*

T. 1 *n*

T. 2

Bar. *mp* *mf*

B. *mp* *mf*

Pno.

grip

44

Dr.

T. 1 *mf*
my fing - ers slip - ping through holes_

T. 2 *mf*
my fing - ers slip - ping through holes_

Bar. *mp*
in - dex_ of hand - shakes i rack my brain for the in - dex_ of hand - shakes

B. *mp*
in - dex_ of hand - shakes tat - tered and fa - ding the in - dex_ of hand - shakes

Pno.

47

Dr.

T. 1 *mp*
my fing - ers slip - ping through holes my fing - ers slip - ping

T. 2 *mp*
my fing - ers slip ping through holes

Bar. *mp*
tat - tered and fa - ding the in - dex_ of hand - shakes i rack my brain for the

B. *mp*
i rack my brain for the in - dex_ of hand - shakes tat - tered and fa - ding the

Pno.

grip

50

Dr.

T. 1

T. 2

Bar.

B.

Pno.

53

Dr.

T. 1

T. 2

Bar.

B.

Pno.

grip

56

Dr.

T. 1 through holes my fing - ers slip - ping through holes

T. 2 my fing - ers slip - ping through holes my fing - ers slip - ping

Bar. *mf* this un - spo - ken trea - ty re - quires we read one a - no - ther

B. *mf* this un - spo - ken trea - ty re - quires we read one a - no - ther

Pno.

59

Dr.

T. 1 *f* my fing - ers slip - ping through holes es - ti - mate what kind of

T. 2 *f* through holes my fing - ers slip - ping... what kind of

Bar. *f* es - ti - mate what kind of men we are es - ti - mate what kind of

B. *f* es - ti - mate what kind of men we are es - ti - mate what kind of

Pno.

grip

Moving inward (♩ = 108-112)

62

Dr. *mf* *p*

T. 1 men we_ are_ if at all whe - ther to ex - tend hands and terse - ly shake mm_

T. 2 men we_ are_ if at all *p*

Bar. men we_ are_ if at all *mf* dis - tance kept

B. men we_ are_ if at all *mf* or ra - ther

Pno.

65

Dr. *mf* *p*

T. 1 and slip in - to fin - ger - tips mm_

T. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* to clasp palms mm_ just clap

Bar. *p* *mf* *p* mm_ or per - haps mm_

B. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* wound a - gainst the thumbs mm_ and

Pno.

grip

69 rit..... a tempo

Dr.

T. 1
i'm tel - ling you i'm tel - ling you

T. 2
mm i'm tel - ling you i'm tel - ling you

Bar.
i'm tel - ling you i'm tel - ling you

B.
bump knu - ckles i'm tel - ling you i'm tel - ling you

Pno.

74

Dr.

T. 1
they want to know whe - ther i am one of them and what kind

T. 2
they want to know whe - ther i am one of them and what kind

Bar.
they want to know whe - ther i am one of them

B.
they want to know whe - ther i am one of them

Pno.

grip

Dr. *mf* *f* *mp*

T. 1 *mf* *f*

T. 2 *mf* *f*

Bar. *mf* *f* *legato mp*

B. *mf* *f*

Pno.

whose al - le - giance i pledge

whose al - le - giance i pledge

which ranks i march with whose al - le - giance i pledge and

which ranks i march with whose al - le - giance i pledge

Dr.

T. 1 *p* falsetto *legato*

T. 2 *mp* legato *pp*

Bar. *pp*

B. *mp* legato

Pno.

and i have no an - swer

and i have no an - swer (i think

i have no an - swer (i think we could)

and i have

grip

88

Dr.

T. 1
the proof is in the

T. 2
we could) i have no answer (i think

Bar.
i have no answer still sill

B.
no answer (i think we could) the

Pno.

mp *pp* *pp* *mp*

92

Dr.

T. 1
fum - ble still still i would like to give this mo - ment

T. 2
we could) still still still i would like to give this

Bar.
still still still i would like to give this mo - ment

B.
proof is in the fum - ble still i would like to give this

Pno.

pp *pp*

Dr. *mp*

T. 1 *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 the chance it de - serves we it we could

T. 2 *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 mo - ment the chance it de - serves we make we could

Bar. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 the chance it de - serves we could we could

B. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 mo - ment the chance it de - serves we work we could

Pno.

Dr. *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *p*

T. 1 *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *p*
 make it work i think i think we could but

T. 2 *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *p*
 make it work i think i think we could but

Bar. *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp*
 make it work i think i think we could

B. *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp*
 make it work i think we could

Pno.

grip

108

Dr.

T. 1 there are so ma - ny op - tions and

T. 2 there are so ma - ny op - tions and

Bar. but there are so ma - ny op - tions and

B. but there are so ma - ny op - tions and

Pno.

Tempo I with a better understanding

113

Dr.

T. 1 know - ing that this is like - ly the one time e - ver that this is

T. 2 that this is like - ly the one time know - ing that this is

Bar. know - ing know - ing which one

B. know - ing know - ing which one

Pno.

grip

116

Dr.

T. 1
like - ly__ the one time know - ing that this is like - ly__ the one time

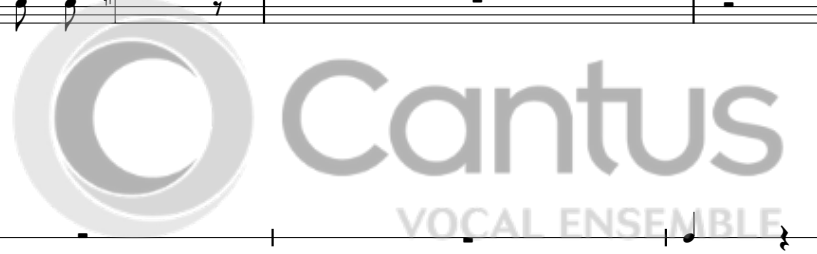
T. 2
like - ly__ the one time e - ver that this is like - ly__ the one time

Bar.
to__ pick__ like the

B.
to__ pick__ like the

Pno.

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119

Dr.

T. 1
e - ver that this is like - ly__ the one time know - ing that this is

T. 2
know - ing that this is like - ly__ the one time e - ver that this is

Bar.
ro - si - est ap - ple from the__ bu - shel

B.
ro - si - est ap - ple from the__ bu - shel

Pno.

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grip

122

Dr.

T. 1
like - ly_ the one time e - ver that this is like - ly_ the one time know - ing that this is

T. 2
like - ly_ the one time know - ing that this is like - ly_ the one time e - ver that this is

Bar.
would re - quire me to_ get_ to know them

B.
would re - quire me to_ get_ to know them

Pno.

126

Dr.

T. 1
like - ly_ the one time e - ver that this is like - ly_ the one time know - ing

T. 2
like - ly_ the one time know - ing that this is like - ly_ the one time e - ver

Bar.
e - nough to do this a se - cond_ time

B.
e - nough to do this_ a se - cond_ time

Pno.



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