

ISAIAH 40 by Irina Kharitonenko

For SSAA Choir and Piano

Text: Isaiah 40:28-31

Approximate Performance Time: 4 minutes and 30 seconds

Program Notes

This setting of the iconic text from Isaiah 40 moves from a place of urgent questioning to a triumphant declaration of strength. The piece begins with a rhythmic, pulsing piano and vocal motifs asking, "Have you not known, have you not heard?" This tension gives way to a lush, "molto legato" middle section that describes the everlasting nature of God. The work culminates in a high-energy "accel. e crescendo" as the voices soar like eagles, ending with a powerful, multi-layered reiteration of the opening theme that underscores the unsearchable power of faith.

Performance Notes

Articulation: The opening "Have you not known" section requires a crisp, almost percussive approach to diction. Pay close attention to the accent marks in the vocal parts to keep the rhythmic drive locked with the piano.

Dynamics & Breath: In the "broadening" section (Measure 14), the choir should shift into a more lyrical, sustained tone. Use staggered breathing where "non resp." is indicated to maintain a continuous wall of sound during long phrases.

For the Pianist: The piano part is highly collaborative. The *Ped. ad lib, espressivo* at the start should provide atmosphere, but as the tempo picks up, the pianist must drive the pulse with a clear, grounded touch.

Scriptural Text

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor sleeps. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even youth shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

ISAIAH 40

Text from Isaiah 40:28-31

Irina Kharitonenko

$\text{♩} = 84$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Piano

Ped. ad lib, espressivo

p

A

5

p *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *f*

S. 1 Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

p *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *f*

S. 2 Have you

not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

p *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *f*

A. 1 Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

p *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *>* *f*

A. 2 Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

Pno.

9

S. 1 *p* *f* *mp*

Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard? The

S. 2 *p* *f* *mp*

Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

A. 1 *p* *f*

Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

A. 2 *p* *f*

Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

Pno. *p* *f*

14 *broadening*

S. 1
ev - er - las - ting God, the Lord, Cre - a - tor of the

S. 2
ev - er - las - ting God, the Lord, Cre - a - tor of the

A. 1
mp *mf* *mp*
The ev - er - last - ing Lord Cre - a - tor

A. 2
mp *mf* *mp*
The ev - er - last - ing Lord Cre - a - tor

Pno.
mp *molto legato* *mf* *mp*

17

non resp. *f*

S. 1
ends of earth nei - ther faints nor

S. 2
ends of earth nei - ther faints nor

A. 1
of the earth nei - ther faints nor

A. 2
of the earth nei - ther faints nor

Pno.

ends of earth nei - ther faints nor

ends of earth nei - ther faints nor

of the earth nei - ther faints nor

of the earth nei - ther faints nor

20

S. 1
sleeps nor sleeps. Nei - ther faints nor

S. 2
sleeps Nei - ther faints nor

A. 1
sleeps Nei - ther faints nor

A. 2
sleeps nor sleeps. Nei - ther faints nor

Pno.

mf *f*

sleeps nor sleeps. Nei - ther faints nor

sleeps Nei - ther faints nor

sleeps Nei - ther faints nor

sleeps nor sleeps. Nei - ther faints nor

24

S. 1

sleeps. _____ His un - der - stand - ing is un

S. 2

sleeps. _____ His un - der - stand - ing is un

A. 1

sleeps. _____ His un - der - stand - ing is un

A. 2

sleeps. _____ His un - der - stand - ing is un-

Pno.

mp

The musical score is for a four-part vocal setting with piano accompaniment. The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts are labeled S. 1, S. 2, A. 1, and A. 2. Each vocal part has a melodic line with lyrics: 'sleeps. _____ His un - der - stand - ing is un'. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. The piano part includes a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic marking.

28 B

S. 1
search - a-ble, un-search - a-ble.

S. 2
search - a-ble, un-search - a-ble.

A. 1
search - a-ble, un-search - a-ble. *mf* He gives pow - er to the

A. 2
-search - a-ble, un-search - a-ble. *mf* He gives pow - er to the

Pno.
mp

8

31

S. 1 *mf*
He inc

S. 2 *mf*
He inc

A. 1
weak and to those who have no___ might He inc

A. 2
weak and to those who have no___ might He inc -

Pno.

34 *f*

S. 1
creas - es strength, in - creas - es strength!

S. 2
creas - es strength, in - creas - es strength!

A. 1
creas - es strength, in - creas - es strength!

A. 2
-creas - es strength, in - creas - es strength!

Pno. *f*

38 *mp*

S. 1
E-ven youth shall faint and be wea-ry and the young men shall ut-ter-ly

S. 2
E-ven youth shall faint and be wea-ry and the young men shall ut-ter-ly

A. 1

A. 2

Pno. *mp*

42

S. 1
fall. and the

S. 2
fall. and the

A. 1
mp
E-ven youth shall faint and be wea - ry and the

A. 2
mp
E-ven youth shall faint and be wea - ry and the

Pno.
mf

45 *f*

S. 1
young men shall ut - ter - ly fall.

S. 2
young men shall ut - ter - ly fall.

A. 1
young men shall ut - ter - ly fall. But

A. 2
young men shall ut - ter - ly fall. But

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

3 3

48 **C**

S. 1 But those

S. 2 But those

A. 1 those who wait

A. 2 those who wait_____

Pno. *mf*

49

S. 1 who wait

S. 2 who wait

A. 1 on the

A. 2 on the

Pno.

50

S. 1

S. 2

A. 1

A. 2

Pno.

the Lord

the Lord

Lord,

Lord,

51

S. 1

S. 2

A. 1

A. 2

Pno.

but those

but those

those who wait____

those who wait____

52

S. 1

who wait

S. 2

who wait

A. 1

on the

A. 2

on the

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 52 and 53. The vocal parts (S. 1, S. 2, A. 1, A. 2) and piano accompaniment (Pno.) are shown. The lyrics are 'who wait on the'. The piano part features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

53

S. 1

the Lord those who wait on the

S. 2

the Lord those who wait on the

A. 1

Lord those who wait on the

A. 2

Lord those who wait on the

Pno.

f

8

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 53 and 54. The vocal parts (S. 1, S. 2, A. 1, A. 2) and piano accompaniment (Pno.) are shown. The lyrics are 'the Lord those who wait on the'. The piano part features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. A forte (*f*) dynamic marking is present in measure 54, and a fermata is indicated over the final measure.

55

S. 1 Lord shall re-new their strength, shall re-new their strength! *mf* They shall

S. 2 Lord shall re-new their strength, shall re-new their strength! *mf* They shall

A. 1 Lord shall re-new their strength, shall re-new their strength! *mf* They shall

A. 2 Lord shall re-new their strength, shall re-new their strength! *mf* They shall

Pno.

8^{va}

59 *poco a poco accel. e crescendo*

S. 1 mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

S. 2 mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

A. 1 mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

A. 2 mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

Pno.

mf

61

S. 1
mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

S. 2
mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

A. 1
mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

A. 2
mount up like the ea - gles, they shall run and not be wea - ry, they shall

Pno.

63

S. 1
walk and ne - ver faint! *f* They shall walk and ne - ver faint!

S. 2
walk and ne - ver faint! *f* They shall walk and ne - ver faint!

A. 1
walk and ne - ver faint! *f* They shall walk and ne - ver faint!

A. 2
walk and ne - ver faint! *f* They shall walk and ne - ver faint!

Pno.

D

67 *mf*

S. 1 Have you not known, have you not heard? Have you not known,

S. 2 *mf* Have you not known have you not heard? Have you not known

A. 1 *mf* Have you not known, Have you not heard? Have you not known,

A. 2 *mf* Have you not known have you not heard? Have you not known,

Pno. *mf*

8

70

S. 1 *f* ,

have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

S. 2 *f*

— have you not heard? Have you not known have you not heard?

A. 1

have you not heard? Have you not known, have you not heard?

A. 2 *f*

— have you not heard? Have you not known have you not heard?

Pno. *f*

8^{va}

73

fp < *ff*

S. 1

Have you not known, have you not heard?

fp < *ff*

S. 2

Have you not known have you not heard?

fp < *ff*

A. 1

Have you not known, have you not heard?

fp < *ff*

A. 2

Have you not known have you not heard?

Pno.

8