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Now Is the Acceptable Time
SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard, Guitar,
Trumpet in B \flat , and Assembly

Barbara Bridge



Now Is the Acceptable Time

Barbara Bridge

Preview

FROM THE COLLECTION

Deep Peace

Octavo Packet #30141832

CD #30141833

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Now Is the Acceptable Time

Based on Joel 2:12-13;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2;
Matthew 6:1-4

Barbara Bridge
Arranged by Craig S. Kingsbury

INTRO ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$)

Keyboard

B \flat Dm E \flat Fsus4 F

B \flat B \flat /D E \flat Cm Fsus4 F Gm Cm Fsus4 F B \flat

REFRAIN

Descant

Now is the time, _____ the ac-cept-a-ble time, _____ the

Soprano of sal -

Alto Now _____ is the ac - cept - a - ble time. _____ Now is the day of sal -

Tenor

Bass

B \flat Dm E \flat Fsus4 F B \flat Gm

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day of sal - va - tion. We be - come God's ho - li - ness. Be

va - tion. We are called to be - come the ho - li - ness of God. Be

Cm F Gm Ab/Eb Bb7/F Eb Cm F#sus4 F

Be rec - on - ciled. Grace of God. Fine

re - con - ciled with God now! Re - ceive the grace of God. Fine

Bb Bb/D Eb Cm F#sus4 F Gm Cm F#sus4 F Bb Fine

VERSES

S/A

1. Break o - pen your hearts of stone. Re - turn to the Lord with your
 2. Keep se - cret your deeds of love and cheer - ful - ly give to the
 3. With fast - ing and con - stant prayer, strength - en your - selves on the

T/B

Gm Dm Eb F Bb Cm Dm

1. whole heart! God's mer - cy a - waits us all:
 2. need - y. God's bless - ing is ours to share:
 3. jour - ney. God walks with us day by day:

Eb F Gm Dm Eb F Gm

1-3. God is gra - cious, rich in kind - ness. *D.S.*

Ab Eb Cm7 Fsus4 F Fsus2 F *D.S.*

Now Is the Acceptable Time

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Joel 2:12-13;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2;
Matthew 6:1-4

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INTRO (♩ = ca. 88)

Capo 3: (G) (Bm) (C) (Dsus4)(D) (G) (G/B) (C) (Am) (Dsus4)(D) (Em) (Am)
B♭ Dm E♭ Fsus4 F B♭ B♭/D E♭ Cm Fsus4 F Gm Cm

(Keyboard)

REFRAIN

(Dsus4)(D) (G) (G) (Bm) (C) (Dsus4)(D) (G) (Em)
Fsus4 F B♭ B♭ Dm E♭ Fsus4 F B♭ Gm

Now ___ is the ac - cept - a - ble time. ___ Now is the day of sal -

(Am) (D) (Em) (F/C) (G7/D) (C) (Am) (Dsus4) (D)
Cm F Gm A♭/E♭ B♭7/F E♭ Cm Fsus4 F

va - tion. ___ We are called to be - come the ho - li - ness of God. ___ Be

(G) (G/B) (C) (Am) (Dsus4) (D) (Em) (Am) (Dsus4) (D) (G)
B♭ B♭/D E♭ Cm Fsus4 F Gm Cm Fsus4 F B♭ *Fine*

rec - on - ciled with God now! ___ Re - ceive the grace ___ of God.

VERSES

(Em) (Bm) (C) (D) (G) (Am) (Bm)
Gm Dm E♭ F B♭ Cm Dm

1. Break o - pen your hearts of stone. ___ Re - turn to the Lord ___ with your
2. Keep se - cret your deeds of love ___ and cheer - ful - ly give ___ to the
3. With fast - ing and con - stant prayer, ___ strength - en your - selves ___ on the

(C) (D) (Em) (Bm) (C) (D) (Em)
E♭ F Gm Dm E♭ F Gm

1. whole heart! God's mer - cy a - waits us all:
2. need - y. God's bless - ing is ours to share:
3. jour - ney. God walks with us day by day:

(F) (C) (Am7) (Dsus4) (D) (Dsus2) (D)
A♭ E♭ Cm7 Fsus4 F Fsus2 F *D.S.*

1-3. God is gra - cious, rich in kind - ness. ___

Now Is the Acceptable Time

B \flat TRUMPET

Barbara Bridge
Arranged by Craig S. Kingsbury

INTRO ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$) § REFRAIN: Tacet until after Verse 2

6

Fine

VERSES 1-3: Tacet Verses 1 & 3

D.S.

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Composer Notes

This gathering song draws its text from each of the three readings of Ash Wednesday (Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4,5–6ab,12–13,14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6,16–18). The single trumpet part is intended only for Ash Wednesday as a way to get our attention, echoing the prophet Joel who cries, “Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast,” and “Return to me with your whole heart.” The heart means the core of the person and the Scriptures never tire of saying that what God wants is not external show but our hearts—our very selves. Psalm 51 carries this theme of the sincere heart forward: “Create in me a clean heart, O God.” Both texts anticipate the Gospel in which Jesus tells his disciples to avoid external show: “Be on guard against performing religious acts for people to see.” Notice that Jesus is not against religious acts. Loving God and neighbor in one’s heart is not much good if it is not expressed in loving actions. But these actions are robbed of their soul if we perform them “looking for applause.” In that case the heart of the matter is not love of God and neighbor but love of one’s own ego. Truly giving ourselves in love to God and neighbor is the discipline of Lent—of baptism—of the paschal mystery! And now is the time for this discipline. Paul’s proclamation to the Corinthians, “now is the day of salvation,” is the refrain that we need to hear throughout the Lenten season. All of this looks forward to the following Sunday’s scene of the temptation in the desert. The fasting Jesus, embodying a spirit of steadfastness (Psalm 51), gives his heart fully to God by choosing fidelity over temptation.

—*Barbara Bridge*


Preview

Assembly Edition


NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

Barbara Bridge


Refrain



Now is the ac - cept - a - ble time. Now is the day of sal -




va - tion. We are called to be - come the ho - li - ness of God. Be




rec - on - ciled with God now! Re - ceive the grace of God.

Verses




1. Break o - pen your hearts of stone. — Re - turn to the Lord
2. Keep se - cret your deeds of love — and cheer - ful - ly give
3. With fast - ing and con - stant prayer, — strength - en your - selves



1. with your whole heart! God's mer - cy a - waits us all:
2. to the need - y. God's bless - ing is ours to share:
3. on the jour - ney. God walks with us day by day:

to Refrain



1-3. God is gra - cious, rich in kind - ness.

Text: Based on Joel 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-4.
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