

OCP CHORAL SERIES

To Christ, the Seed

Based on trad. Irish Prayer *Ag Críost an Siol*

Ephrem Feeley

Calmly (♩ = ca. 82)

Cello *mp*

Piano *mp, delicately*

4

Soprano/Alto *mp*

To Christ, the seed; _____ to Christ, the

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The Cello part begins with a melodic line in the bass clef, marked *mp*. The Piano accompaniment is in the grand staff, marked *mp, delicately*, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The vocal part for Soprano/Alto begins at measure 4, marked *mp*, with the lyrics "To Christ, the seed; _____ to Christ, the". The score includes a large "Preview" watermark.

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7

har-vest; may we be gath - ered in -

10

to the barns of God. To Christ, the

Baritone

13

sea, _____ and all with - in it; _____

16

Poco più allegro
mf

Poco più allegro
mf

may we be cap - tured with - in God's

Poco più allegro
mf

20

Tempo primo

Tempo primo mp

nets. From growth to

Tempo primo

dim. *mp*

23

age, from age to death,

mp

cresc.

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "To Christ, the Seed". It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 20-22) features a vocal line with lyrics "nets. From growth to" and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked "Tempo primo" and the dynamics include "mp". The second system (measures 23-25) continues the vocal line with lyrics "age, from age to death," and the piano accompaniment. The tempo remains "Tempo primo", and dynamics include "mp" and "cresc.". The score is written in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

26

f sur - round us.
your arms, O Christ, sur - round us.

f
dim. *mp*

30

mf cresc. not end, but re -
From our death to the end,

cresc.

33

ff *mp* *rit.*

birth: *ff* *mp rit.*

in bless - ed Par - a - dise may we

ff *mp rit.*

ff *dim.* *mp rit.*

37

a tempo

be! *a tempo*

To Christ, our lives;

a tempo

a tempo, delicately

40

to Christ, our be - ing. In Christ we

43

live, and have our be - ing.

rall. e dim. al fine

rall. e dim. al fine

rall. e dim. al fine

Composer Notes

The text of “To Christ, the Seed” comes from a translation of the Irish prayer *Ag Críost an Síol*. The origin of this beautiful prayer is uncertain: It may date to the late nineteenth century. There are echoes of the “seed scattered on the hills” (Didache 13) and the disciples who were called to be “fishers of men” (Mark 1) in the text. The Irish text is most popularly known in its *sean-nós* setting by Seán Ó Riada.

This choral setting treats the text quite differently. A meditative presentation for SAB choir (although it may be sung as a solo too), with ebbs and flows in dynamics, captures the contrasting aspects of the prayer. The statement that all life belongs to, and exists in, Christ is softer and more static; the petition that we may be gathered into his fold, and into Paradise, has greater rhythmic drive and is more insistent.

The landscape of this piece, with the main melodic ideas, came to me—while driving—on the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, where the gospel reading from Matthew is the Parable of the Sower.

—Ephrem Feeley

To Christ, the Seed

To Christ, the Seed

CELLO

Ephrem Feeley

Calmly (♩ = ca. 82)

mp

6

12

17 *Poco più allegro* *Tempo primo*

mf

23

f

28

mf

34

ff

rit.

mp

a tempo

41

rall. e dim. al fine

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