Restless Is the Heart

Bernadette Farrell

SATB
Clarinet
Restless Is the Heart
for Carrie McAndrew
Psalm 90
Bernadette Farrell

REFRAIN (d = ca. 50)
(a tempo)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Restless is the heart until it comes to rest in you. All the

earth, all the earth shall remember and return to our

God.

VERSE 1

1. Lord, you have been our refuge through all time, from one gen-

er-


© 1989, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

A full score and part for solo instrument in Bb (clarinet) or C are available from the publisher, edition 70166.
1. -a- tion to the next; before the moun-tains were born, or the

1. earth brought forth, you are God, with-out be-gin-ning or end.

VERSE 2

rest is the heart

2. To your eyes a thou-sand years are like a day, no more than a

2. watch in the night. You sweep us a-way like a dream, like the
2. Grass that springs green in the morning, but faded by night.

VERSE 3

3. Make us know our life's shortness, make us know our life's shortness that

3. We may gain true wisdom of heart. In the morning, the morning

3. Fill us with your love,
Restless Is The Heart

The powerful words of Psalm 90 are coupled here with a verse from Psalm 22 (all the earth shall remember . . . ) and the words attributed to St. Augustine: our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

The utterly human quality of the unaccompanied voice is chosen to express these words. The verses move freely and expressively through emotions of trust and wonder, vulnerability and anger, reconciliation and joy. The triplets should not be treated mechanically but with a free, inner energy springing out of the prevailing mood or dynamic.

This is essentially a choral setting, with the refrain acting as a thought-pattern rather than strict congregational response. In some contexts people may want to participate in the refrain, while in others they will make their responses through listening and remembering. The organ could give quiet support if absolutely necessary, but try challenging your singers to enjoy the sounds of their own voices!

This is a piece for funerals and reconciliation services as well as celebrations of creation, rites of passage and new beginnings.
RESTLESS IS THE HEART

Bernadette Farrell

Text: Based on Psalm 90:1–2, 4–6, 12, 14. Text and music © 1989, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR, 97213. All rights reserved.

Verbs

1. Lord, you have been our refuge through all time, from one generation to the next; before the mountains were born, or the earth brought forth, you are God, without beginning or end.
2. To your eyes a thousand years are like a day, no more than a watch in the night.
3. Make us know our life’s shortness, make us know our life’s shortness that we may gain true wisdom of heart. In the morning, the morning fill us with your love, fill us with your love.

You sweep us away like a dream, like the grass that springs green in the morning, but faded by night.

Refrain

Rest-less is the heart un-till it comes to rest in you. All the earth, all the earth shall re-mem-ber and re-turn to our God.

For reprint permissions, please visit OneLicense.net or contact us at 1-800-663-1501.