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Restless Is the Heart
SATB Choir, B♭ Clarinet, Assembly

Bernadette Farrell



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Preview

Restless Is the Heart

for Carrie McAndrew

Based on Psalm 90:1-2, 4-6, 12, 14

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REFRAIN:

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

mp

Rest-less is the heart_ un-til it comes to rest in you. _ All the

mp

mf

rit. last time

1-3 *p* to Verses

Final *p* Fine

earth, all the earth shall re-mem - ber and re - turn_ to our God. _ God. _

mf

rit. last time *p* *p*

VERSE 1:

mp

1. Lord, _ you have been our ref-uge through all time, from one gen - er -

mp

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1. ra - tion to the next; be - fore the moun - tains were born, or the

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

rit. *D.C.*

VERSE 2:

mp

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

f

2. watch in the night. You sweep us a - way like a dream, like the

molto rit.

2. grass that springs green in the morn - ing, but fad - ed by night. —

molto rit.

VERSE 3:

p *mp* *poco stringendo*

3. Make us know our life's short - ness, make us know our life's short - ness that

p *mp* *poco stringendo*

rit. *f* *a tempo*

3. we may gain true wis - dom of heart. In the morn - ing, — the morn - ing

rit. *f* *a tempo*

fill us with your love, *più f* *D.C.*

3. fill us, fill us, fill us with your love. —

più f

Restless Is the Heart

B \flat CLARINET

Bernadette Farrell

REFRAIN:

VERSE 1: **VERSE 2:** **VERSE 3:**

10 *D.C.* 9 *D.C.* 13 *D.C.*

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Preview

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Performance Notes

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.

Preview

Assembly Edition

RESTLESS IS THE HEART

Bernadette Farrell

REFRAIN:

Rest- less is the heart un- til it comes to rest in you. All the

earth, all the earth shall re- mem-ber and re- turn to our God.

VERSES:

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. **(to Refrain)**
2. To your eyes a thousand years are like a day,
no more than a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream,
like the grass that springs green in the morning,
but faded by night. **(to Refrain)**
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,
fill us, fill us with your love. **(to Refrain)**

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