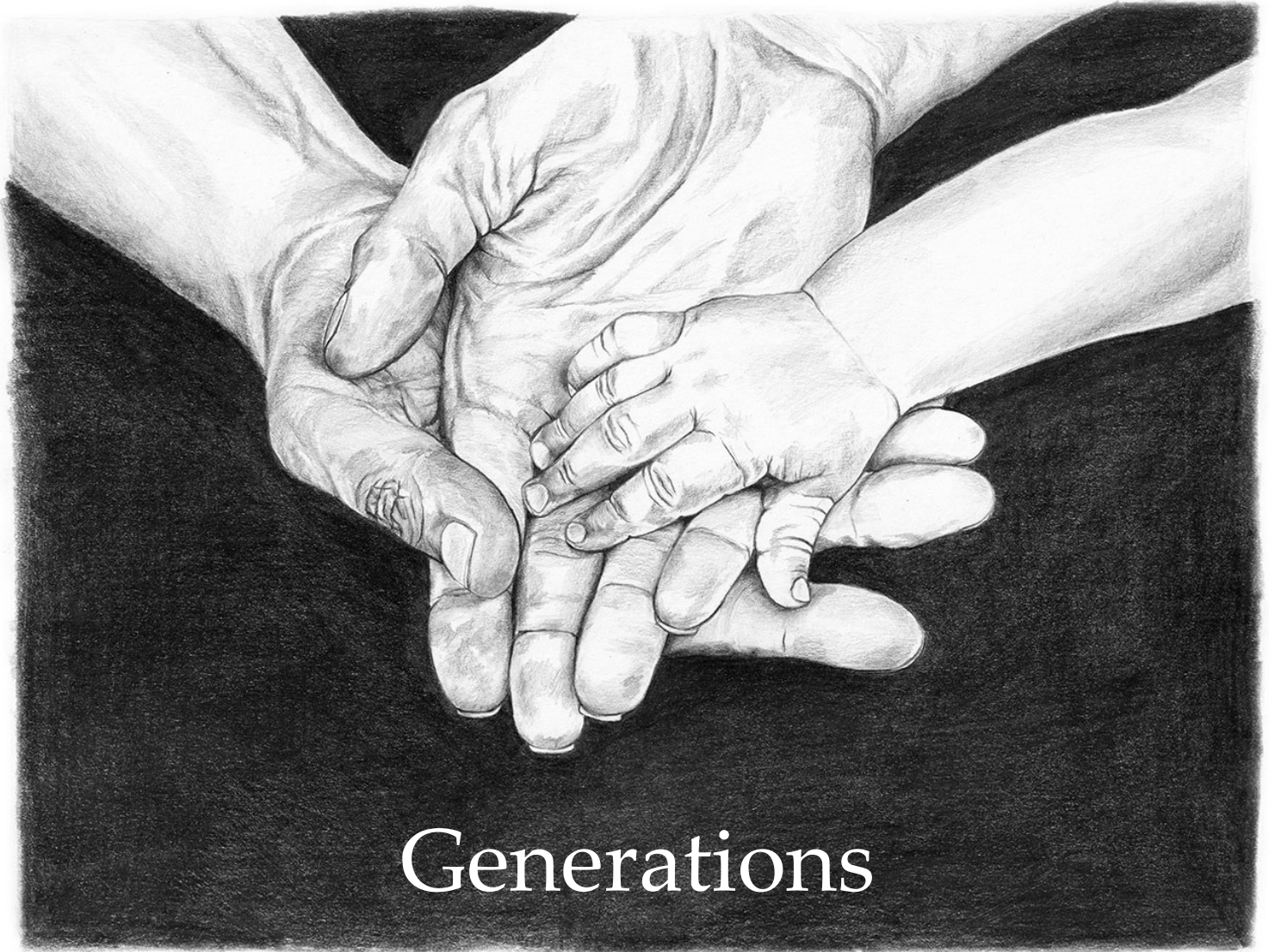


Music by Melissa Dunphy
Poetry by Jacqueline Goldfinger



Generations

a song cycle for soprano and organ

11 minutes
2023

Commissioned by the San Francisco 2024 National Convention
of the American Guild of Organists

Generations

a song cycle for soprano and organ

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Poetry by Jacqueline Goldfinger

I. The Morning Song

On their first day of days, the newborn at mother's breast listens close. Father whispers: "You shall love Adonai with all your heart and soul and might; in teaching and in binding, in lying down and in rising up, in Jerusalem's perpetual light." Wails from tender lips curl through time to worlds both vanished and to come. Today she is the summoner. Receiver of wisdom. Measure of their hearts. Tomorrow, gone, a weaver of eternities.

II. The Darkest Hour

Today is always the darkest hour. In it we behold: the fearful watchman, the crack of the whip, the covenant dusty and delayed. Yet even in bleakest night, the nightingale sings, carrying the dreams of Moses and Aaron, Huerta and King. We yearn with hands, we yearn with mouths, we yearn with marches and songs of praise. God of our Forefathers, pardon our iniquity. God of our Foremothers, marry love to strength, patience to resolve, hope to action. Let us be a light in the darkness of our day.

III. The Great Work

Hope braided in sacred hours, children dream our bygone dreams. Their shield and sword our words and deeds. The Great Work must be done. We sing a song of hope. Sing to the sky, to the union of stars. There is joy in them, even as they burn away. The Great Work must be done. My actions are my life, my love, my witness; the sentence I write of our story. L'dor v'dor, generation to generation. The Great Work will be done.

—Jacqueline Goldfinger, 2023

Commissioned by the San Francisco 2024 National Convention
of the American Guild of Organists

Cover artwork by Cate Marcelli.



103 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
(717) 214-6121 | www.mormolyke.com

I. The Morning Song

Poetry by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Adagio ♩ = c. 66

Soprano

Organ

Pedals

5 *p* *espress.*

On their first day of days, the new - born at moth-er's breast lis-tens

9

close. Fa - ther whis-pers: "You shall love A - do-nai with

13

all your heart and all your soul and_ might; in

mf *p*

17

teach - ing and in bind - ing, in ly - ing down and in ris - ing up,

p

21

in Jer - u - sa - lem's per - pet - u - al light."

mf

24

mp

Wails from tender lips

mp

27

curl through time to worlds both vanished and to

Gt.

mp

31

come. To-day, she is the summon-er.

mf

Sw.

mf

35

Re - cei - ver of wis - dom. Meas - ure of their hearts.

39

rubato **p**

To - mor - row, gone, a wea - - ver_ of e - ter - ni - ties,

43

rit.

a weav - er_ of e - ter - ni - ties.

II. The Darkest Hour

Poetry by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Rubato ♩ = c. 72

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It begins with a guitar part (Gt.) in the treble clef, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte), and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The tempo is marked **Rubato** with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. The guitar part features a melodic line with a trill on the second measure and a sustained chord in the third measure. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment with a bass line that has a trill on the second measure. The system concludes with a **Sw.** (Swell) marking.

5 **Moderato** ♩ = c. 100

The second system begins at measure 5 and is marked **Moderato** with a quarter note equal to approximately 100 beats per minute. It features a vocal line in the treble clef and piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line starts with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "To-day is al-ways the dark - est hour. In it we be-". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

9 **f**

The third system begins at measure 9 and is marked **f** (forte). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "-hold: the fear - ful watch - man, the crack of the whip, the". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. A guitar part (Gt.) is introduced in the final measure, marked **f** and featuring a trill.

12

cov-en - ant_ dus-ty and de - layed. To-day is

Sw. mp

15

al - ways the dark - est hour. In it we be- hold: the fear - ful

18

watch - man, the crack of the whip, the cov - en - ant

Gt.

21 *mf* *p*

dust - y and de - layed. Yet e - ven in bleak - est night, yet

25 *rit.* *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = c. 92 *mf*

e - ven in bleak - est night, the night-in - gale_ sings,

rit. *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = c. 92 *mf*

Gt. *mp*

28 *mp*

car-ry - ing the dreams of Mo - ses and Aa - ron,

Sw. *mp*

31

Huer-ta and King. We yearn with hands, we yearn with mouths, we

35

yearn, we yearn, with march-es and songs of praise.

Sw.

38

God of our Fore-fa-thers, par-don our in-i-qui-ty.

42 *mp*

God of our Fore - moth - ers, mar-ry love to

45 *f*

strength, pa-tience to re-solve, hope to ac - tion.

49 *rit.*

Gt. *rit.*

52 **a tempo**
p warmly

Let us_ be a light in the dark - ness of our day.

a tempo
p

56 *mp*

Let us_ be a light in the dark - ness of our

mp

59 *mf*

day. Let us_ be a light in the

mf

62

dark - ness of our day. Let us be a

f

Gt.

65

light in the dark - ness of our day.

68

Let us be a light.____

III. The Great Work

Poetry by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Maestoso ♩ = c. 32

Soprano

Organ

Sw. *mp*

Pedals

5

mf

poco rit.

10

a tempo

mp

Hope braid-ed in sa - cred hours, child-ren dream our by - gone dreams. Their

a tempo

mp

14

shield and sword our words and deeds. The Great Work

17

must be done.

mf *mp*

22

We

mf

26

sing a song of hope. Sing to the sky, to the u - nion of

30

stars. There is joy in them, e-ven as they burn a -

Gt.

34

- way. The Great Work must be

f

Gt.

38

done. *mp* My ac - tions are my life, my love, my wit - ness;

Sw. *mp*

43

mf the sen-tence I write of our *f* sto - ry.

Gt. *f*

47

p L' - dor v' - dor, gen - er - a - tion to gen - er - a - tion.

p

52

mp *f*

L'-dor v' - dor, gen - er - a - tion to gen-er-a - tion.

mp *f*

Gt.

57

mp

The Great Work must be done. The Great Work

mp

Sw.

62

f *rit.*

will be done.

f *rit.* *ff*

Gt.