

Ode to Hope

for double SATB chorus



Music by Melissa Dunphy

Text by Sophocles, translated by Philip Barnes

2024

7.5 min

*Commissioned for the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus (Philip Barnes, artistic director)
by William Larson in gratitude for this organization's commitment to choral excellence*

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Blessed are they who live long, far from evils,
Their homes stand free from the shaking of a god.
Yet when his ills fall upon a house without number,
Then does the tide wash over scions of age upon age.
As when the sea surges and throws up the sand
From the deep to the crests of the waves,
Battered and buffeted by harsh winds from the North,
Then the sea beats on every shore
And roars and moans its unending groan.

O Zeus, how might we mortal men
Pervert and curb your power,
Which neither sleep nor tireless months
Can weary hour by hour? [...]
The law you give is absolute
For those who live below, [...]
That no-one lives a boundless life
Not knowing a calamity.

The Labdakids of old have suffered woes of death,
Woes falling on their homes in every age;
Generations come and go but don't redeem the next,
And now I witness how a god is rushing its demise.
No atonement or reprieve are destined for this house.
Redemption's lights have shone their last upon the royal line
Of Oedipus, [...]
For even now the gods below uproot it, and they tell
A tale of madness mired in blood, through dusty sacrifice.

Hope, it ranges and deranges
Every man in search of gain,
Yet often uses and abuses
The frail in truth and brain.
You veil our sight as we step
Into singeing fires of lust.
We reckon little all those seers
Who told us once and ever more,
How choices bad yet good appear
Whene'er we set our wits aside,
Not knowing a calamity.

From *Antigone*, Stasimon 2

Cover image: Antigone and Ismene with their father Oedipus. Engraving for E. Schröter by Martin Lämmel after a bas-relief by German sculptor A. Küpper, published 1879.



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Adagietto $\text{♩} = \text{c.}72$

tutti **p** warmly **mp**

Soprano
Bles-sed are they, bles - sed are they,

Alto
Bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they, bles-sed are

Tenor
Bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they, bles-

Bass
Bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they, bles - sed are

Reduction
Adagietto $\text{♩} = \text{c.}72$
p warmly **mp**

7 poco rit. . . a tempo

S.
bles-sed are they who live_ long far from e - vils, their **mp**

A.
they, bles-sed are they who live_ long far from e - vils, their **mp**

T.
- sed are they, bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they,

B.
they, bles-sed are they, bles-sed are they, their **mp**

poco rit. . . a tempo

p **mp**

13

S. *f implacable*
 homes stand free from the shak - ing of a god. Yet when his ills fall up-on a

A. *f implacable*
 homes stand free from the shak - ing of a god. Yet when his ills fall up-on a

T. *mp* *f implacable*
 bles-sed are they, free from the shak - ing of a god. When his ills

B. *f implacable*
 homes stand free from the shak - ing of a god. When his ills

19

S. *p*
 house with-out num-ber, then does the tide wash o-ver sci - ons of age up-on

A. *p*
 house with-out num-ber, then does the tide wash o-ver sci - ons of age,

T. *p*
 fall with-out num-ber, then does the tide wash o-ver sci-ons of

B. *p*
 fall with-out num-ber, then does the tide wash o-ver sci-ons of

25 **A** *Poco piu mosso* ♩=c.80

S. *mp* age, age up-on age. *pp* Ah,

A. age up-on age, age up-on age. *pp* Ah,

T. age up-on age, age up-on age. *mp* As when the sea sur-ges and

B. age up-on age. *mp* As when the sea sur-ges and

Poco piu mosso ♩=c.80

31 *p* *mf*

S. ah, to the crests of the waves,

A. *p* *mf* *mf* ah, to the crests of the waves, bat-tered and

T. *mf* throws up the sand, from the deep to the crests, the crests of the waves,

B. *mf* throws up the sand, from the deep to the crests, the crests of the waves,

p *mf*

37 *mf* *p* *accel.* **NB enharmony*

S. bat - tered and buf - fet - ed by harsh, harsh,

A. buf - fet - ed, bat - tered and buf - fet - ed by harsh, harsh,

T. bat - tered and buf - fet - ed by harsh winds from the North, then the

B. Bat - tered and buf - fet - ed by harsh winds from the North, then the

41 *f* *f* *f* *f* *Andante* ♩=c.92

S. winds from the North, then the sea beats on ev' - ry shore

A. winds from the North, then the sea beats on ev' - ry shore and

T. sea beats on ev' - ry shore and roars and moans,

B. sea beats on ev' - ry shore, then the sea beats on ev' - ry shore and

Andante ♩=c.92

47

S. *p* and moans, and moans its un - end - ing groan.

A. *mp* roars and moans its un - end - ing groan, its un - end - ing groan.

T. *mp* roars and moans its un - end - ing groan.

B. *mp* roars and moans its un - end - ing groan, its un - end - ing

54 **B**

S. *p* Hope, it ran-ges and de - ran - ges, yet a - bu - ses the

A. *p* Hope, it ran-ges and de - ran - ges ev'ry man in search of gain, yet of-ten u-ses and a -

T. *p* Hope de - ran - ges ev'ry man in search of gain yet of-ten u-ses and a -

B. *p* groan. Hope ran-ges and de - ran - ges, yet a - bu - ses the

60

S. *mf*
frail in truth and brain. You veil our sight as we step in - to singe-ing fires of

A. *mf*
bu - ses the frail in truth and brain. You veil our sight as we step in - to singe-ing fires of

T. *mf*
bu - ses the frail in truth and brain. You veil our sight as we step in - to singe-ing fires of

B. *mf*
frail in truth. You veil our sight as we step in - to singe-ing fires of

66

S. *p* *mp*
lust. Ah, when-e'er we set our wits a - side,

A. *p* *mp*
lust. Ah, when-e'er we set our wits a - side, not

T. *p*
lust. How choic-es bad yet good ap-pear, ah, not

B. *p*
lust. How choic-es bad yet good ap-pear, ah, not

71 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

S. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca -

A. know - - - ing a ca - lam - i - ty,

T. know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty,

B. know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca -

S. a ca - lam - i - ty,

A. know - - - ing a ca - lam - i -

T. know - ing a ca - lam - i -

B. know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty,

poco rit. *a tempo*

76 *rit.* *Andante* ♩=c.92 *p*

S. lam - i - ty, The

A. a ca - lam - i - ty, The

T. a ca - lam - i - ty, The

B. lam - i - ty, The

S. a ca - lam - i - ty. The

A. ty, a ca - lam - i - ty. The

T. ty, a ca - lam - i - ty. The

B. a ca - lam - i - ty. The

rit. *Andante* ♩=c.92 *p*

*NB enharmony



82 *tutti* *mp*

S. Lab - da-kids of old have suf-fered woes of death fall - ing on their homes;

A. *tutti* *mp*
Lab - da-kids of old have suf-fered woes of death, fall - ing on their homes in ev'-ry

T. *tutti* *mp*
Lab - da-kids of old have suf-fered woes of death fall-ing on their homes in ev'-ry age;

B. *tutti* *mp*
Lab - da-kids of old have suf-fered woes of death fall - ing on their homes in ev'-ry age;

89 *f* *mf*

S. Gen-er - a - tions come and go but don't re-deem the next, and now I wit-ness how a god is

A. *f* *mf*
age; Gen - er - a - tions don't re-deem the next, and now I wit-ness how a god is

T. *f* *mf*
Gen - er - a - tions don't re - deem the next. Wit-ness how a god is

B. *f* *mf*
Gen - er - a - tions come and go but don't re-deem the next. Wit-ness how a god is

D

96

S. *mf* *f*
 rush - ing its de - mise. Re - demp-tion's

A. *mf* *f*
 rush-ing its de-mise, rush-ing its de-mise, rush - ing its de-mise. Re - demp-tion's

T. *mf* *f*
 rush-ing its de-mise, rush-ing its de-mise, rush - ing its de-mise. Re - demp-tion's

B. *mf* *f*
 rush - ing its de - mise, rush-ing its de - mise, rush - ing its de - mise.

103

S. *f*
 lights have shone their last up - on the roy - al line of Oe - di - pus,

A. *f*
 lights, re - demp-tion's lights have shone their last up - on the roy-al line,

T. *f*
 lights have shone their last up - on the roy - al line of Oe - di - pus,

B. *f*
 Re - demp-tion's lights have shone their last up-on the line of Oe - di - pus,

109

S. *mf* for e - ven now, the gods be - low_ up - root it, *p* and they tell a

A. *mf* *NB enharmony for e - ven now, the gods, the gods be-low up - root it, *p* tell a tale of

T. *mf* for e - ven now, the gods be - low up - root it, and they tell a *p*

B. *mf* for e - ven now, the gods be - low up - root it and they tell, they *p*

116

S. *f* tale of mad - ness mired in blood *p* through dus - ty sac - ri - fice.

A. *f* *NB enharmony mad - ness, of mad - ness mired in blood through dus - ty sac - ri - fice. *p*

T. *f* tale of mad - ness mired in blood through dus - ty sac - ri - fice, *p*

B. *f* tell a tale of mad - ness mired in blood through dus - ty sac - ri - fice, *p*

E

123 *mf*

S. Zeus, how might we mor-tal men per-vert and curb your

A. O Zeus, we men per-vert and curb your

T. sac - ri - fice. Zeus, how might we mor-tal men per-vert and curb your

B. sac - ri - fice. Zeus, we men per-vert and curb your



S.

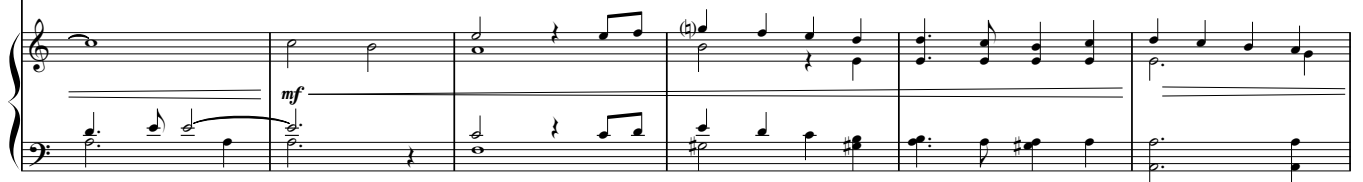
A. *mf*
O Zeus,

T. sac - ri - fice.

B. sac - ri - fice.



mf



129

S. *mf* power, The law you give is_

A. *mf* power, The law you give is_

T. *mf* power, The law you give is

B. *mf* power, The law you give is

S. *mf* which nei-ther sleep nor tire-less months_ can wear-y hour by hour?

A. *mf* which nei-ther sleep nor tire-less months can wear-y hour by hour?

T. *mf* Nei - ther sleep nor tire-less months can wear-y hour by hour?

B. *mf* Nei - ther sleep nor tire-less months can wear-y hour by hour?

135

S. ab - so-lute for those who live be - low,

A. ab - so-lute for those who live be - low, not know-ing a ca-

T. ab - so-lute for those who live be - low,

B. ab - so-lute for those who live be - low,

S. *mp* that no-one lives a bound-less life.

A. *mp* that no-one lives a bound-less life not know-ing a ca- *f*

T. *mp* that no-one lives a bound-less life.

B. *mp* that no - one lives not know-ing a ca-

mp

F

141

S. *f* Hope, it ranges and deranges ev'ry man in search of gain, yet often uses and abuses the

A. lam-i-ty. Hope deranges ev'ry man in search of gain, yet often uses and abuses the

T. *f* Hope, it ranges and deranges, yet abuses the

B. *f* Hope deranges, yet abuses the

S. *f* Hope, it ranges and deranges ev'ry man in search of gain, yet often uses and abuses the

A. lam-i-ty. Hope deranges ev'ry man in search of gain, yet often uses and abuses the

T. *f* Hope, it ranges and deranges, yet abuses the

B. *f* lam-i-ty. Hope deranges, yet abuses the

f

147

S. *f*
 bu - ses the frail in truth and brain. We reck-on lit - tle all those seers who told us

A. *f*
 bu - ses the frail in truth and brain. We reck-on lit - tle all those seers who told us

T. *f*
 frail in truth and brain. We reck-on lit - tle all those seers who told us

B. *f*
 frail in truth. We reck - on lit - tle all those seers who told us

S. *f*
 bu - ses the frail in truth and brain.

A. *f*
 bu - ses the frail in truth and brain.

T. *f*
 frail in truth and brain.

B. *f*
 frail in truth and brain.

152

S. *mf*
once and ev - er more, when-e'er we set our wits a -

A. *mf*
once and ev - er more, when-e'er we set our wits a -

T. *mf*
once and ev - er more, when-e'er we set our wits a -

B. *mf*
once and ev - er more, when we set our wits a -

S. *mp* *mf*
how choic-es bad yet good ap-pear

A. *mp* *mf*
how choic-es bad yet good ap-pear

T. *mp* *mf*
how choic-es bad yet good ap-pear

B. *mp* *mf*
how choic-es bad yet good ap-pear

mp *mf*

157 rit. . . . **G** a tempo *f*

S. side, a ca - lam - i - ty, —

A. side, a ca - lam - i - ty, —

T. side, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca -

B. side, a ca - lam - i - ty,

S. *mf* not know - ing *f* a ca - lam - i - ty, — a ca - lam - i - ty, —

A. *mf* not know - ing *f* a ca - lam - i - ty, —

T. *mf* not know - ing *f* a ca - lam - i - ty,

B. *mf* not know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

a tempo *f*

164

S. a ca - lam - i - ty, _____ a ca - *ff*

A. a ca - lam - i - ty, _____ a ca - *ff*

T. lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - *ff*

B. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - *ff*

S. _____ a ca - lam - i - ty, *ff*

A. _____ a ca - lam - i - ty, *ff*

T. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - *ff*

B. ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, *ff*

ff

169

S. lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

A. lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

T. ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca -

B. lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

S. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

A. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

T. ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca -

B. a ca - lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i -

174 *tutti* ***fff*** *f* *rit.*

S. *tutti* ***fff*** *f* *rit.*

A. *tutti* ***fff*** *f*

T. *tutti* *f* *mf*

B. *tutti* ***fff*** *f* *mf*

ty, not know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty,

ty, not know - ing a ca - lam - i -

lam - i - ty, ca - lam - i - ty, not know - ing a ca -

ty, ca - lam - i - ty, not

178 *mp* *ppp*

S. *mp* *ppp*

A. *mp* *ppp*

T. *p* *ppp*

B. *p* *ppp*

not know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty.

ty, not know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty.

lam - i - ty, a ca - lam - i - ty.

know - ing a ca - lam - i - ty, ca - lam - i - ty.