

ZACHARY WADSWORTH

EARTHQUAKE

for SATB chorus (soprano solo) and organ

*Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists
for the Biennial National Convention in
Houston, Texas, 2016*

PERUSALS SCORE

Score Notes

- Completed: May 2015.
- Duration: ca. 7'30".
- Text: "Earthquake" by Thomas Merton, from THE COLLECTED POEMS OF THOMAS MERTON, copyright ©1977 by The Trustees of the Merton Legacy Trust. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corp.
- Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists for the Biennial National Convention in Houston, Texas, 2016.
- Dedicated to Crista Miller.

Organ Performance Notes

- Organ registrations are meant as guidelines and should be freely adjusted by the performers to suit the instrument, choir, and acoustic at hand.
- In the opening gap registration in the organ pedals, the 1' stop should be soft and well-blended with the Swell registration. This may be best achieved with a 2' flute stop super-coupled to the Pedal.
- Throughout the flowing eighth-note sections at the beginning and end of the work, the organist should employ overlap-legato.

Program Note

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was a monk, a social activist, and a poet. His writing vividly describes a peaceful and socially aware Christianity. In 1966, in response to the Christian non-violent movement for Civil Rights, he wrote "Eight Freedom Songs." In the last of these, "Earthquake," he reimagined Isaiah 52 as a call to action for the Christians of the world to use their "marching feet" to become "messengers of peace," and to build a world in which "All ... people / shall be one."

This message of strength and obligation reverberates powerfully in the continuing civil rights struggles of our time, and the poem's strong inner rhythms resonated powerfully with me as a composer. My anthem, *Earthquake*, starts darkly with Merton's invocations to "tell the thunder / To wake the sky," but erupts joyfully with images of the bright paradises of love and unity.

Zachary Wadsworth's "vivid, vital, and prismatic" music has established him as one of the leading composers of his generation, especially among those writing vocal, choral, and operatic works. With recent performances by the choir of Westminster Abbey, the Washington National Opera Chorus, Boston Metro Opera, Long Leaf Opera, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, his works have been heard in venues around the world, from Washington's Kennedy Center to Tokyo's Takinogawa Hall.

As winner of the 2011 King James Bible Trust Award, Wadsworth's anthem *Out of the South Cometh the Whirlwind* was performed at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. Other recent honors include a Fellowship from the Douglas Moore Fund for American Opera, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, three Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from ASCAP, and first-prize recognition in competitions sponsored by the American Composers Forum, the Pacific Chorale, the Boston Choral Ensemble, and the Esoterics. Wadsworth's music is widely broadcast and distributed, with recent publications by Novello, G. Schirmer, and E.C. Schirmer, and broadcasts on NPR, BBC, and CBC.

Wadsworth earned graduate degrees from Cornell University (DMA) and Yale University (MM), and is an honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music (BM). Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Wadsworth (b. 1983) has taught at Williams College, the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the University of Calgary, and he maintains an active performing life as a tenor and pianist.

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Earthquake

to Crista Miller

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Zachary Wadsworth (b. 1983)

Sustained and mysterious ♩ = ca. 66

Sw. 8' 4' Strings + Celestes
Pd. 16' 1' (or 2' super from Ch. or Solo)

Organ

Sw. *p molto legato*

5

p Go_ tell the earth_ to shake

p Go_ tell the earth_ to shake

p Go_ tell the earth_ to shake

p Go_ tell the earth_ to shake

10

And tell the thun - der To wake the sky

And tell the thun - der To wake the sky

And tell the thun - der To wake the sky

And tell the thun - der To wake the sky

15

And tear the clouds a - part Tell my

And tear the clouds a - part Tell my

And tear the clouds a - part Tell my

And tear the clouds a - part Tell my

And tear the clouds a - part Tell my

accel.

Forcefully ♩ = ca. 88

peo - ple to come out And won-der Where the old world is gone For a
 peo - ple to come out And won-der Where the old world is gone For a
 peo - ple to come out And won-der Where the old world is gone For a
 peo - ple to come out And won-der Where the old world is gone For a

accel. Forcefully ♩ = ca. 88

mf Gt. *f marc.*

Pd. -1'

ff

allargando

new world is born And all my peo - ple Shall be one.
 new world is born And all my peo - ple Shall be one.
 new world is born And all my peo - ple Shall be one.
 new world is born And all my peo - ple shall be one.

(tr) ~~~~~ allargando

(Ped.) >

Bright ♩ = ca. 132

mf poco marcato

So tell the earth to shake

So tell the earth to shake

So tell the earth to shake

So tell the earth to shake

Bright ♩ = ca. 132

Sw. bright registration 8' 4'
Pd. 16' 8'

So tell the earth to shake

mf non legato

mp legato

With march-ing feet Of mess-en-gers of peace Pro - claim my

With march-ing feet Of mess-en-gers of peace Pro -

With march-ing feet Of mess-en-gers of peace

With march-ing feet Of mess-en-gers of peace

mp legato

(non legato)

law of love To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race.

claim my law of love To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race.

Pro - claim my law of love To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race.

Pro - claim my law of love To Ev - ery race.

mf

Broadly (faster) ♩ = ca. 144

f cant. *mf* *f* *mf*

For the old wrongs are o - ver The old days are gone A new

f cant. *mf* *f* *mf*

For the old wrongs are o - ver The old days are gone A new

f cant. *mf* *f* *mf*

For the old wrongs are o - ver The old days are gone A new

For the old wrongs are o - ver The old days are gone A new

Broadly (faster) ♩ = ca. 144

Soft solo reed 8'

mf cant. Sw.

(Ped.)

world is ris-ing A new— world is ris-ing Where— my peo - ple

world is ris-ing A new— world is ris-ing Where— my peo - ple

world is ris-ing A new world is ris-ing Where— my peo - ple

world is ris-ing A new— world is ris-ing Where— my peo - ple

Gt. *f*

allargando

Bright ♩ = ca. 132 / ♩ = ca. 88

mf poco marcato

shall be one. So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of

shall be one. So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of

shall be one. So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of

shall be one. So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of

allargando

Bright ♩ = ca. 132 / ♩ = ca. 88

Sw. (as before)

mf non legato

63

mess-en-gers of peace _____ *mp legato* Pro - claim my law of love

mess-en-gers of peace _____ *mp legato* Pro - claim my law of

mess-en-gers of peace _____ *mp legato* Pro - claim my

mess-en-gers of peace _____ *mp legato* Pro -

mp legato

67

Soprano solo

To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race. _____ *f*

love To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race. _____ And

law of love To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race. _____

claim my law of love To ev - ery race. _____

mf

Warmly ♩ = ca. 116

mf cantabile

72

say The old_ wrongs are ov - er The old_

Warmly ♩ = ca. 116

mp legato poss.

Sw. Strings
Ped 16' 8'

(Ped.)

78

mp

ways are done

There shall be no more hate

84

mf

f

And no more war_

89

poco rall.

mf

mp

rit.

My peo - ple shall be one.

p *pp*

reduce

(Ped.)

Gradually enlivening ♩ = ca. 88

95

p dolciss.

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet of

p dolciss.

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet of

p dolciss.

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet of

p dolciss.

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet of

Gradually enlivening ♩ = ca. 88

Opening registration

Sw. *p molto legato*

accel. poco a poco

101

p legato

mess-en- gers of peace Pro-claim my law of love

p legato

mess-en- gers of peace Pro-claim my law of

p legato

mess-en- gers of peace Pro-claim my

p legato

mess-en- gers of peace Pro-

accel. poco a poco