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# Adventus

for unaccompanied SATB chorus

AJ Harbison

Muse Room Press

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*Adventus*, first edition, 2020

# Adventus (2020)

for unaccompanied SATB chorus

AJ Harbison

### Program Notes

The Latin word “adventus” means “coming.” The text and music of *Adventus* look back to the first Advent, the birth of Jesus Christ, and look forward with longing to the second Advent, when He will return to make all things right. The music is chant-like and is based around a single consonant but “ungrounded” chord, a musical expression of “already and not yet.”

### Performance Notes

All accidentals apply only to the note they precede.

Tenuto marks indicate both a slight emphasis and a slight lengthening of the note.

The large dynamics above each system apply to all voice parts.

A crescendo and diminuendo without a dynamic marking in the middle (i.e.  $\langle \quad \rangle$ ) indicate a slight dynamic increase without reaching the next dynamic level. If the dynamic before the crescendo is ***p***, the highest dynamic level reached before the diminuendo should be between ***p*** and ***mp***, not fully reaching ***mp***.

### Duration

ca. 5 minutes

# Adventus

by Mark Harbison

Adventus

A coming

Poor son of man,

Yet Word of God made flesh:

The promised Messiah, King of kings.

Born without fanfare in the dirt and the hay,

His only proclamation a sign in the sky for kings from afar,

His only attendants livestock and shepherds, the least of these—

While the greatest slaughter the innocent, and voices weep and mourn.

In the fullness of time, the Redeemer has come at last: the Son of God Himself,

Who died but conquered death; who ascended to heaven and shall come again with glory.

When the course of time is finished, and the days of mourning are ended,

Despite hard-hearted pharaohs, weeping and rumors of wars—

The least of these wait, certain of the unknown day and hour

When His sign streaks like lightning across the sky,

When “how long, O Lord” is at last no longer:

When the Lord of lords returns triumphant,

Word of God crowned in glory,

Great Son of Man,

O Savior come

Adventus



# Adventus

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Mark Harbison (2020)

AJ Harbison (2020)

Chant-like, rubato ♩ = 88

*p* <> *p* <> *p* — *mp* — *p*

Soprano  
Ad - ven - tus A com - ing Poor son of man,

Alto  
Ad - ven - tus A com - ing Poor son of man,

Tenor  
Ad - ven - tus A com - ing Poor son of man,

Bass  
Ad - ven - tus A com - ing Poor son of man,

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

4 *p* — *mf* — *p* *p* — *mf* < *f* > *mf* — *p*

Yet Word of God made flesh: The prom - ised Mes-si - ah, King of kings.

Yet Word of God made flesh: The prom - ised Mes-si - ah, King of kings.

Yet Word of God made flesh: The prom - ised Mes-si - ah, King of kings.

Yet Word of God made flesh: The prom - ised Mes-si - ah, King of kings.

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6 *p* *mp* *p*

Born with - out fan - fare in the dirt and the hay, \_\_\_\_\_

Born with - out fan - fare in the dirt and the hay, \_\_\_\_\_

Born with - out fan - fare in the dirt and the hay, \_\_\_\_\_

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

Born with - out fan - fare in the dirt and the hay, \_\_\_\_\_

7 *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

His on - ly proc-la - ma-tion a sign in the sky for kings from a - far, \_\_\_\_\_

His on - ly proc-la - ma-tion a sign in the sky kings from a - far, \_\_\_\_\_

His on - ly proc-la - ma-tion a sign in the sky kings from a - far, \_\_\_\_\_

His on - ly proc-la - ma-tion a sign in the sky kings from a - far, \_\_\_\_\_



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8 *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

His on - ly at - ten - dants live - stock and shep - herds, the least of these—

His on - ly at - ten - dants live - stock and shep - herds, the least of these—

His on - ly at - ten - dants live - stock and shep - herds, the least of these—

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

His on - ly at - ten - dants live - stock and shep - herds, the least of these—

9 *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *rallentando*

While the great - est slaugh - ter the in - no - cent, and voic - es weep and mourn.

While the great - est slaugh - ter the in - no - cent, and voic - es weep and mourn.

While the great - est slaugh - ter the in - no - cent, and voic - es weep and mourn.

While the great - est slaugh - ter the in - no - cent, and voic - es weep and mourn.

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10 *mp* *f* *ff* *f* *mp*

In the full-ness of time, the Re-deem-er has come at last: the Son of God Him - self,  
 full-ness of time, the Re-deem-er has come at last: the Son of God Him - self,  
 full-ness of time, Re-deem-er has come at last: the Son of God Him - self,  
 full-ness of time, Re-deem-er has come at last: the Son of God Him - self,

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

11 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

died con - quered death; as-cend - ed to heav - en come a-gain with  
 Who died but con - quered death; as-cend - ed to heav - en come a-gain with  
 died con - quered death; who as - cend-ed to heav - en come a-gain with  
 died con - quered death; as-cend - ed to heav - en and shall come a-gain with

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11 *mf* — *mp* > *p* *mp* *p*

glo - ry. When the course of time is fin-ished, and the days of mourn -

glo - ry. When the course of time is fin-ished, and the days of mourn -

glo - ry. course of time is fin-ished, days of mourn -

glo - ry. course of time is fin-ished, days of mourn -

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

12 *mf* — *f* *p* — *mp* > *p*

ing are end-ed, De-spite hard-heart-ed pha - raohs, weep - ing and ru-mors of wars—

ing are end-ed, De-spite hard-heart-ed pha - raohs, weep - ing and ru-mors of wars—

ing are end-ed, De-spite hard-heart-ed pha - raohs, weep - ing and ru-mors of wars—

ing are end-ed, De-spite hard-heart-ed pha - raohs, weep - ing and ru-mors of wars—

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14 *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

The least of these wait, cer-tain of the un - known day\_ and\_ hour

The least of these wait, cer-tain of the un - known day

The least of these wait, cer-tain of the un - known day

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

The least of these wait, cer-tain of the un - known day

15 *p* *mp* *fp*

When His sign streaks like light-ning a - cross the sky,

When His sign streaks like light-ning a - cross the sky,

When His sign streaks like light-ning a - cross the sky,

When His sign streaks like light-ning a - cross the sky,

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16 *p* *mp* *p*

When "how long, O Lord" is at last no long - er:

When "how long, O Lord" is at last no long - er:

When "how long, O Lord" is at last no long - er:

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

When "how long, O Lord" is at last no long - er:

17 *mp* *f* *fp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

When the Lord of lords re-turns tri-um-phant, Word of God crowned in glo - ry,

When the Lord of lords re-turns tri-um-phant, Word of God crowned in glo - ry,

When the Lord of lords re-turns tri-um-phant, Word of God crowned in glo - ry,

When the Lord of lords re-turns tri-um-phant, Word of God crowned in glo - ry,

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19 *p* *p* *p* *pp*

Great Son of Man, O Sav-ior come Ad-ven - tus\_\_\_\_\_

Great Son of Man, O Sav-ior come Ad-ven - tus\_\_\_\_\_

Great Son of Man, O Sav-ior come Ad-ven - tus\_\_\_\_\_

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY**

Great Son of Man, O Sav-ior come Ad-ven - tus\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The score is for measure 19 and consists of four staves. Each staff has a treble clef (except for the Bass staff which has a bass clef). The lyrics are: "Great Son of Man, O Sav-ior come Ad-ven - tus\_\_\_\_\_". The dynamics are marked as *p* (piano) for the first three phrases and *pp* (pianissimo) for the final phrase. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The Soprano and Alto parts are very similar, while the Tenor and Bass parts have more distinct melodic lines. A large, bold watermark "PERUSAL SCORE ONLY" is overlaid across the bottom two staves.

Kansas City, Lent and Eastertide, 2020