

Christian Onsager

Walk with Me

For SATB Chorus

CO-01



About the Music

The lyrics of *Walk with Me* start with a powerful statement of anguish and should be sung in that tone. Taken literally, these words seem to apply to only a few. Yet with the music, the audience hears a universal metaphor for times when they themselves have felt broken or blinded in some way. The upper voices seek to offer succor, beginning more gently in a lower register and building to a soaring chorus of many, when the plea to accept the helping hand grows more urgent. Some listeners will relate to this chorus. Many will alternate between the perspectives of the sufferer and the helper. In the end, the two walk hand in hand and affirm the power of compassion.

Walk with Me was first performed at the Walden School's Creative Musician's Retreat in 2014. I am grateful to the Walden School and its dedicated professionals for my experience there and the help they provided for this piece.

-C.O.

About the Composer

Christian Onsager grew up in New Haven, Connecticut, where he became a choral singer at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at the age of 7 under the tutelage of his next-door neighbors Helen (a professional soprano) and Howard Boatright (violinist, composer and eventually Dean of the School of Music at Syracuse University). Now living in Denver, Colorado, he sings with the First Universalist Singers and his own SATB quartet, Euphony. Someday he hopes to put onto paper all the music he has floating around in his head.



Walk with Me

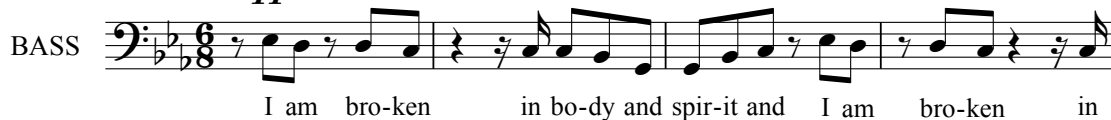
♩ = 50

Dark

Christian Onsager (ASCAP)

pp

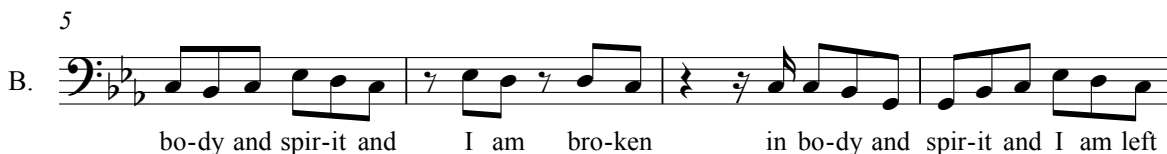
BASS



I am bro-ken in bo-dy and spir-it and I am bro-ken in

5

B.



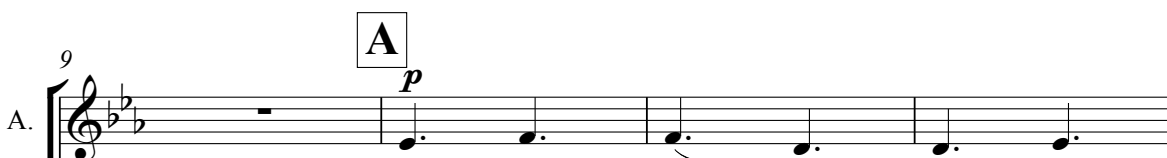
bo-dy and spir-it and I am bro-ken in bo-dy and spir-it and I am left

9

A.

A

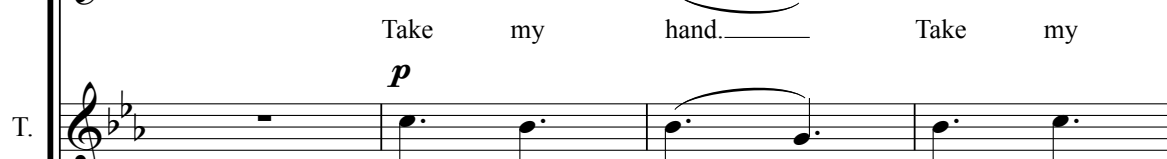
p



Take my hand. Take my

T.


p



Take my hand. Take my

B.

p



grasp-ing for air. I am brok-en in bo-dy and spir-it and I am

13

A.




hand. Take my hand. Take my

T.



hand. Take my hand. Take my

B.



bro-ken in bo-dy and spir-it and I am bro-ken in bo-dy and

B

17 *p*

S. Take my hand.

A. hand. Take my hand. Take my hand.

T. hand. Take my hand. Take my hand.

B. spir-it and I am left grasp-ing for air. I am bro-ken in bo-dy and

21

S. — Take my hand. Take my

A. — Take my hand. Take my

T. — Take my hand. Take my

B. spir-it and I am bro-ken in bo-dy and spir-it and I am bro-ken

25

S. hand._____ Take my hand._____ *p* Does the

A. hand._____ To-geth-er we'll walk from the depths of de - spair.---

T. hand._____ Take my hand._____

B. in bo-dy and spir-it. To-geth-er we'll walk from the depths of de - spair.---

29 **C** Brighter

S. thun-der of trou-ble roll through your life? Does the pain of liv - ing

A. *p* Does trou - ble roll your life? Pain of liv - ing

T. *p* Does trou - ble roll your life? Pain of liv - ing