

WISE WORDS, Henson
SBMP 1729

SATB
piano, violin

WISE WORDS

music by
Blake R. Henson

words by
Gerald Custer



Cory Boutton
CHORAL SERIES

Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com

About the composer

Blake Henson has been praised for his music that Gramophone Magazine says "moves from soothing sentiments to more exultant territory with exceptional harmonic vibrancy; it casts a spell that must be even more thrilling when heard in live performance," and the New Jersey Star-Ledger called "powerful and thoughtful at the same time."

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Henson holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music theory and composition from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, as well as the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from The Ohio State University. He has received numerous commissions from colleges and high schools, churches, community choruses and orchestras, and professional ensembles, including Chanticleer, Westminster Choir, Kantorei, Williamson Voices, Anam Cara, Masterwork Chorus and Orchestra, The Thomas Circle Singers, and Verdigris Ensemble. His music has been performed in some of the finest venues in the United States including Carnegie Hall, The National Cathedral, and Spivey Hall; as well as in concert halls in sixteen countries. His choral works have been performed at ACDA National Conventions as well as by numerous All-State choirs. He is the co-author of *The Composer's Craft: a practical guide for students and teachers*, *From Words to Music: a practical guide for students and teachers*, and *The Singer's Guide to Arranging*.



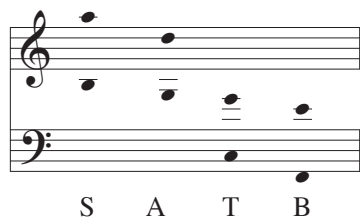
Composer notes

In January of 2020, a friend asked me to compose a work for a concert honoring wise people. I was asked to choose as inspiration someone whose thoughts and deeds were not only significant, but may have been an inspiration along my own journey. While I have always tried to learn a great deal from the many thoughtful and intelligent individuals whose paths I've been fortunate to cross, the greatest of these has always been the man who appeared on my television set nearly every day when I was a child, delivering messages of honesty, friendship, kindness, and love: Fred Rogers. For a text, I reached out to Gerald Guster, with whom I have been friends for twenty years. Jerry and I have composed music together, we've written books together, and we've given lectures together, and I know no one to whom Fred Rogers meant more than him. Jerry wrote a text, I sketched out a few musical ideas, then the COVID-19 pandemic put the concert for which this was designed on hold. Eventually, it was cancelled all together. I thought Wise Words would never be completed until my friend Phillip Swann heard me talking about the piece and insisted I finish it, not for him or for his singers, but for Fred Rogers himself and all the children whose lives were immeasurably touched by his kindness and grace.

I am thankful to have such wonderful friends. It's a good feeling.

-Blake

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks available at SBMP.COM

Words by
Gerald Custer (b. 1953)

Wise Words

Music by
Blake R. Henson (b. 1983)

♩ = c. 80

Violin

Piano

mf

mf

pedal harmonically

5

10

S

A

T

B

mp

mp

Beau - ty is ours when we dare to see it, — O - pen - ing our

Beau - ty is ours when we dare to see it, — O - pen - ing our

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1729-3

15

eyes to see; _____

eyes to see; _____

mp Bring-ing fresh light to the bro - ken

mp Bring-ing fresh light to the bro - ken

21

So let us

So let us

heart - ed, Hope that sets all of us free;

heart - ed, Hope that sets all of us free;

26

p

mf

choose, so let us use Wise words,

mf

choose, so let us use Wise words,

8

31

kind words. So let us

kind words. So let us

mf

Wise words, So let us

mf

Wise words, So let us

35

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

8 find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

41

words.

words.

8 words.

words.

words.

Neigh - bors are

Neigh - bors are

PREVIEW

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46

made when you fi - nal - ly find them, _ O - pen - ing

made when you fi - nal - ly find them, _ O - pen - ing

50

mf Tell - ing the sto - ries that

mf Tell - ing the sto - ries that

hands and hearts; Tell - ing the sto - ries that

hands and hearts; Tell - ing the sto - ries that

55

bring us to life, Gath-er-ing all the piec - es and parts:

bring us to life, Gath-er-ing all the piec - es and parts:

bring us to life, Gath-er-ing all the piec - es and parts:

bring us to life, Gath-er-ing all the piec - es and parts:

60

mp

So let us choos. so let us use Wise

So let us choose, so let us use Wise

So let us choose, so let us use Wise

So let us choose, so let us use Wise

65

words, kind words. So let us

words, kind words. So let us

8 words, kind words. So let us

words, kind words. So let us

69

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

8 find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

find, deep in our mind Wise words, true

p

p

p

p

mp

words. _____

words. _____

8 words. _____

words. _____

mp

PREVIEW

rit. A little slower ♩ = c. 72

mp a cappella

mp Here is my hand: I give it to

mp Here is my hand: I give it to

mp Here is my hand: I give it to

mp Here is my hand: I give it to

rit. A little slower ♩ = c. 72

opt. a cappella

87

you, Here are my hopes and my dreams; Let us be

you, Here are my hopes and my dreams; Let us be

8 you, Here are my hopes and my dreams; Let us be

you, Here are my hopes and my dreams; Let us be

93

one, where once there were two, Mak - ing life more than it

one, where once there were two, Mak - ing life more than it

8 one, where once there were two, Mak - ing life more than it

one, where once there were two, Mak - ing life more than it

accel.

seems: _____

seems: _____

seems: _____

seems: _____

accel.

(play)

Tempo I ♩ = c. 80

f

f

f

f

f

So let us choose, _____ So let us use, _____

So let us choose, _____ So let us use, _____

So let us choose, _____ So let us use, _____

So let us choose, _____ So let us use, _____

Tempo I ♩ = c. 80

f

108

Wise words,
Wise words,
Wise words,
Wise words,

p. *p.* *p.* *p.*

112

kind words. So let us find,
kind words. So let us find,
kind words. Let us find,
kind words. Let us find,

p. *p.*

116

deep in our mind Wise words, true words.

deep in our mind Wise words, true words.

8 deep in our mind Wise words, true words.

deep in our mind Wise words, true words.

121 rit.

More motion ♩ = c. 108

p

rit. More motion ♩ = c. 108

mf smoothly

125

mf
Words that can heal the wound - ed,

129

mf
Words that make safe space;

And. * *And.* * *And.* * *sim.*

133

Musical staff for measure 133, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur over the first four notes.

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Piano accompaniment for measures 133-136, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

137

Musical staff for measure 137, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur over the first four notes.

Vocal staff 1 for measure 137, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "Back in - to love's em - brace,".

Vocal staff 2 for measure 137, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "Back in - to love's em - brace,".

Vocal staff 3 for measure 137, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "Back in - to love's em - brace,".

Vocal staff 4 for measure 137, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "Back in - to love's em - brace,".

Piano accompaniment for measure 137, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

Piano accompaniment for measure 137, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

Piano accompaniment for measure 137, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

Piano accompaniment for measure 137, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

Piano accompaniment for measure 137, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands.

141

p

Words that can heal the wound - ed,

Words that can heal the wound - ed,

This system contains measures 141 through 144. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a grand staff. The lyrics are: "Words that can heal the wound - ed,". A piano dynamic marking (*p*) is present at the beginning.

145

Words that make safe _____ space;

Words that make safe _____ space;

This system contains measures 145 through 148. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a grand staff. The lyrics are: "Words that make safe _____ space;".

149

mf

Words that will call _____ all wan - der - ing

Words that will call _____ all wan - der - ing

Words that will call _____ all wan - der - ing

Words that will call _____ all wan - der - ing

153

home: Back in - to love's em - brace,

home: Back in - to love's em - brace,

home: Back in - to love's em - brace,

home: Back in - to love's em - brace,

157

f Neigh - bors in love's _____ em -

f Neigh - bors in love's _____ em -

f Neigh - bors in love's _____ em -

f Neigh - bors in love's _____ em -

f Neigh - bors in love's _____ em -

f _____ *sub. p*

f _____ *sub. p*

f _____ *sub. p*

f _____ *sub. p*

f _____ *sub. p*

f _____ *sub. p*

162

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$

brace. _____

brace. _____

brace. _____ So let us

brace. _____ So let us

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$

mp

PREVIEW



167

Deep in our mind, Wise words, true words.

Deep in our mind, Wise words, true words.

find, Wise words, true words.

find, Wise words, true words.

173

rit.

rit.

8^{va}

rit.