

Always Keep This Close

Zachary J. Moore



About the composer

Third place winner of both the Marvin Hamlisch International Film Scoring Contest and The American Prize, Zachary J. Moore (b.1992) is an American composer, conductor and speaker who strives to tell meaningful stories through his music that will captivate, transform, and transport listeners.

His works have gained notable attention in the choral world and have received numerous performances by Festival, All-State, and Honors Choirs at prestigious events and locations including Carnegie Hall, the Taipei National Concert Hall, the Franklin D. Roosevelt 75th Anniversary Concert, and ACDA conventions.

Zach has composed choral music since 2009 and has received guidance and master classes from some of the world's leading choral composers including Eric Barnum, Dan Forrest, Ola Gjeilo, Timothy Takach and Jake Runestad. Zach holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and a Master's Degree in Composition from Stephen F. Austin State University.

For more information please visit zacharyjmoore.com

Composer notes

"I am a part of all I have met, and all I have met is a part of me," is a quote that exists on the wall of my old classroom at Waukesha West High School in Waukesha, WI. Truer words have never been spoken, for when I write music, every influence in my life is right there in the room with me guiding each note that I put on the page. Since this piece's original debut for treble choir back in 2015 to now, the road has been an unexpected Journey. Truly, the same can be said for each of us. We have all experienced unexpected peaks and valleys in our lives and each of those experiences is like adding a new ridge to a figurative fingerprint. And in a choir, each of those fingerprints come together to create a unique blend that goes beyond the music that is created. As it states in the poem, "you make more than music here," you make lifelong memories that will live forever in the heart and mind, and that can never be lost.

Poet notes

I was requested to write Always Keep This Close by members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Women's Concert Chorale. At first, I thought it would be impossible, because I thought the love I have for WoCo was too great to be put to words; how could I explain what this remarkable group of women means to me? After a week of battling myself and over-analyzing my words, I decided to write what those women had given me, and write it in the form I know best: as if I'm speaking directly to someone. My poem is speaking to the women of WoCo in a deeply personal way, because my experience itself was deeply personal. I wanted everyone in the group to know how much it meant for me to be included, to feel like I had a home no matter where I was, and to show them the significance of what they do and poem experience every day.

Text

Always Keep This Close by Colleen Carhuff

Always keep this close and you'll never need more, your world is here with the familiar voices that linger in the air and all those hearts that have learned to beat in time with each other. You make more than music here. No notes are as connected as the souls that sing them and no soul is happier than when she is surrounded by her sisters. Even when you leave this does not leave you, when you are lost just listen and you will always find your way home. It is impossible for something to go from your life without first becoming part of who you are. You are another, I am you, we are one.

- Zachary J. Moore

To East, Preble, Southwest, and West High Schools in Green Bay, WI, in honor of Ms. Sara Holub

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