

# Dawn, Unhindered

Text by  
Shiho Okamoto, Sadayo Taniguchi,  
Youko Shinoda and Kyotaro Komuro

Music by  
**Eric Tuan**



*JB*  
**JEFFREY BENSON**  
CHORAL SERIES

## About the composer

Recognized for his adventurous programming and passion for musical excellence, Eric Tuan [b.1990] brings a wealth of experience in the choral arts to his work as conductor and composer. He currently serves as Artistic Director of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, where he oversees a rigorous choral training program serving 300 youth singers and leads its top ensembles in concerts and collaborations throughout the Bay Area, the United States, and abroad; and as director of Stanford University's Early Music Singers. For twelve years Tuan served as the founding Artistic Director of the chamber choir Convivium and as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos.

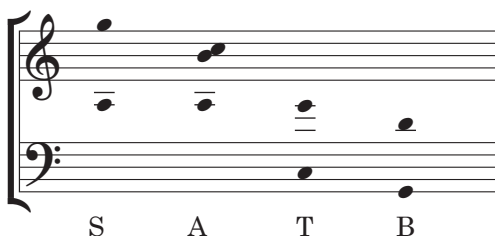


As a composer, Tuan is frequently commissioned by leading choral organizations, including Seattle Pro Musica, San Francisco Choral Artists, Volti, Peninsula Women's Chorus, Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley, Choral Audacity, 21V, and the Stanford Chamber Chorale. His music has been performed at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America; by choirs throughout the USA, Canada, Finland, Denmark, the UK, and Belgium; and through broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Estonian Public Broadcasting.

Tuan received his B.A. in Music with Honors from Stanford University and a Master of Music in Choral Studies with Distinction from the University of Cambridge, which he obtained with the support of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Among his mentors and conducting teachers are Stephen M. Sano, Jameson Marvin, Craig Jessop, Robert Geary, Stephen Layton, Stephen Cleobury, and David Skinner. He is a third-generation resident of California's San Francisco Bay Area of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino descent.

For more information, please visit [erictuanmusic.com](http://erictuanmusic.com)

## Ranges



# Dawn, Unhindered

Haiku excerpted from *May Sky: An Anthology of Japanese American Concentration Camp Kaiko Haiku* and translated by Violet Kazue de Cristoforo.  
Haiku by Shiho Okamoto, Sadayo Taniguchi, Youko Shinoda, and Kyotaro Komuro.  
Used by permission of Kimi de Cristoforo.

Music by  
Eric Tuan

Other text drawn from the O Antiphon for Dec. 21 ("O Oriens")  
and Rabindranath Tagore, *Gitanjali* 57.

With steely determination ♩ = 124–132

**T**

**B**

*p* relentless

Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

for rehearsal only

5

*p* relentless

Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a -

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

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9 *p* *lilting*

S Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

A *p* *lilting*

A Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

T ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a -

B im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

UN

[illegible]

17

*p*

Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a -

*sub. p*

Im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

21

*p lilting*

i - ron fence, i - ron fence,

*p lilting*

i - ron fence, i - ron fence,

ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a -

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

25

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

i - ron fence, i - ron, i - ron, i - ron, i - ron,

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

i - ron fence, i - ron, i - ron, i - ron, i - ron,

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, i - ron, i - ron,

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, - ron, i - ron,

29 Stomp (Tutti)

O - ver the moun - tain, o - ver the moun - tain, win - ter sun ris - es, —

O - ver the moun - tain, o - ver the moun - tain, win - ter sun ris - es, —

O - ver the moun - tain, o - ver the moun - tain, win - ter sun ris - es, —

O - ver the moun - tain, o - ver the moun - tain, win - ter sun ris - es, —

35 *with blazing intensity*

win - ter sun ris - es, \_\_\_\_\_

win - ter sun ris - es, \_\_\_\_\_

win - ter sun ris - es, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* O

*f* *mf* *p*

ris - es, im - mov - a - ble im - mov - a - ble,

40

*mp*

O Ra - diant Dawn, \_\_\_\_\_ O

Ra - diant Dawn, \_\_\_\_\_ O Ra - diant Dawn, \_\_\_\_\_ O

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

44

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48

splen - dor of \_\_\_ e - ter - nal light,

*f* splen - dor of \_\_\_ e - ter - nal light,

*f* splen - dor of \_\_\_ e - ter - nal light, *f* splen - dor of \_\_\_ e -

*f* splen - dor of \_\_\_ e - ter - nal light, *f* splen - dor of \_\_\_ e -



53

*f* splen - dor of e - ter - nal light, *p* sun of

*f* splen - dor of e - ter - nal light, *p* sun of

*sub. p* ter - nal light, sun of jus - tice, sun of

*sub. p* ter - nal light, sun of jus - tice, sun of

59

*f* jus - tice, come, shine, come shine, on

*f* jus - tice, come, shine, shine, on

*mf* jus - tice, come, shine, come shine, on

*mf* jus - tice, come, shine, come shine, on

65 *mp* *pp*

those who dwell in dark - ness, and the shad - ow of death,

those who dwell in dark - ness, and the shad - ow of death,

8 those who dwell in dark - ness, and the shad - ow of death,

those who dwell in dark - ness, and the shad - ow of death,

*mp* *pp*

*mp* *pp*

*mp* *pp*

*mp* *pp*

73 *poco rit.* *a tempo* Add 1st Altos as needed  
*mp molto espr.*

Hand - cuffed,

*p* Hand - cuffed, hand-cuffed, tak - en a - way, hand-cuffed,

*p* Hand - cuffed, hand-cuffed, tak - en a - way, hand-cuffed,

*p* Hand - cuffed, hand-cuffed, hand-cuffed, hand-cuffed,

81 *mf* *impassioned*

tak - en a - way, I see my

tak - en a - way, hand - cuffed, tak - en a - way,

tak - en a - way, hand - cuffed, tak - en a - way,

hand - cuffed, hand - cuffed, hand - cuffed,

94 *pp* light and precise

tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping,

*p* light and precise

way, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, \_

way,

hand - cuffed,

98

tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping, tap - ping, \_ tap - ping,

*mp* warm

In the shade of \_ sum - mer \_

*mp* warm

In the shade of \_ sum - mer \_

102

tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping,

tap - ping, tap - ping,

*mf* *non dim.*

sun, guard tap - ping rock with

*mf* *non dim.*

sun, guard tap - ping rock with

106

tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping,

tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping, tap - ping,

club, club,

110 **non rit.** *pp* with stark simplicity

tap - ping, — tap - ping, tap - ping, — tap - ping, End of friend's life has

*pp* with stark simplicity

End of friend's life has

*pp* with stark simplicity

End of friend's life has

*pp* with stark simplicity (falsetto)

End of friend's life has

115 *pp*

come, — End of friend's life has come, —

*p* *mp*

come, — End of friend's life has come, — Grass — is

*mp*

come, — End

*mp*

come, — End



134

*p* but clearly

Be - tween ceil - ing slats and thick e - lec - tric

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble,

138

with inexorable growth *p* through the slats, *mp* and the

with inexorable growth *p* through the slats, *mp* and the

with inexorable growth *p* wires, be - tween ceil - ing slats and thick e - lec - tric *mp*

with inexorable growth *p* im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, *mp*



142

*mf*

wires, dawn comes through, dawn comes through, dawn comes

*mf*

wires, dawn comes through, dawn comes through, dawn comes

8 wires, be - tween ceil - ing slats and thick e - lec - tric

*mf*

im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, im - mov - a - ble, dawn comes

PREVIEW

146

*f* *ecstatic*

through un - hind - ered, un - hind - ered, un -

*f* *ecstatic* *take charge*

through un - hind - ered, un - hind - ered, O

*f* *ecstatic*

8 wires, O Ra - diant Dawn, O Ra - diant Dawn, O

*f* *ecstatic*

through un - hind - ered, un - hind - ered, un -

151

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8

*mf* *p but energized*

Ra - diant Dawn, O Dawn, O Ra - diant

*mf* *p but energized*

hind - - - ered, O Ra - diant

157

Dawn!

Dawn!

*p with joyful intensity*

Dawn! Ma - jes - tic

*with joyful intensity*

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light, my light, the world - fill - ing light, my light, the

162

*with determination*  
**mp**

Snow lin - gers,

*with joyful intensity*  
**p**

**mp**

on side of the moun - tain, Ma - jes - tic sun - rise on

**mp**

sun - rise on side of the moun - tain, Ma - jes - tic sun - rise on

**mp**

world - fill - ing light, my light, the world - fill - ing light, my light, the world - fill - ing

167

**mf**

lin - gers, lin - gers lin gers,

**mf**

side of the moun - tain,

**mf**

**f**

side of the moun - tain, Light, my light, the world fill - ing

**mf**

**f**

light, my light, the world - fill - ing Light, my light, the world fill - ing

171

*f* Light, my light, \_ the eye - kiss - ing light, \_ *f* Light, \_ my light, \_ the

*f* Light, my light, \_ the eye - kiss - ing light, \_ *f* Light, \_ my light, \_ the

light, *f* Light, \_ my light, \_ the heart - sweet - 'ning light, *p più f*

light, *f* Light, \_ my light, \_ the heart - sweet - 'ning light, *p più f*

176

*p più f* heart - sweet - 'ning light, *mf* with ecstatic fervor

heart - sweet - 'ning light! *mf* with ecstatic fervor Ah, the light dan - ces,

Ah, the light dan - ces, Ah, the light dan - ces,

181 *f* with ecstatic fervor

Ah, the light dan - ces, Ah, the light dan - ces,

Ah, the light dan - ces, Ah, the light dan - ces,

Ah, the light dan - ces, Ah, the light dan - ces,

Ah, the light dan - ces, Ah, the light dan - ces,

185 Stomp (Tutti)

Stomp (back rows) Add front rows Clap/Stomp (Tutti)

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light!

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light!

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light!

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light!

Light, my light, the world - fill - ing light!

## Texts

Haiku from *May Sky: There Is Always Tomorrow, An Anthology of Japanese American Concentration Camp Kaiko Haiku*.

Compiled, Translated, and Prefaced by Violet Kazue de Cristoforo.

Sun & Moon Press: Los Angeles, 1997.

Used by permission of Kimi de Cristoforo.

Iron fence immovable  
over the mountain  
winter sun rises

-*Shiho Okamoto*

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice!  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

-*O Antiphon appointed for December 21 ("O Oriens")*

Hand-cuffed and taken away  
I see my husband  
even today

-*Sadayo Taniguchi*

In the shade of summer sun  
guard tapping rock  
with club

-*Shiho Okamoto*

End of friend's life  
has come  
grass is green and wet

-*Youko Shinoda*

Between ceiling slats  
and thick electric wires  
dawn comes through unhindered

-*Kyotaro Komuro*

O Radiant Dawn!

Majestic sunrise  
on side of the mountain  
snow lingers

-*Shiho Okamoto*

Light, my light, the world-filling light, the eye-kissing light, heart-sweetening light!  
Ah, the light dances!

Light, my light, the world-filling light!

-*Rabindranath Tagore, from Gitanjali 57*

## Composer Notes

During the Second World War, over 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent in California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona - nearly two-thirds of them American citizens - were rounded up and forced into internment camps. Accused of posing a security risk solely on the basis of their Japanese heritage, they spent the war behind barbed wire fences at camps located in remote areas of the United States.

Yet despite the challenging conditions within the camps, musical and literary endeavors still flourished. Among them was the art of *kaiko haiku*, a contemporary, freely-structured take on the traditional Japanese literary form. Violet Kazue de Cristoforo, a poet held at the centers in Jerome, Arkansas and Tule Lake, California, collected and translated many of these haiku in her seminal anthology *May Sky: An Anthology of Japanese American Concentration Camp Kaiko Haiku*.

Reading through the collection, I was struck by the poets' ability to find glimpses of beauty in their isolated surroundings and in the routines of everyday camp life. The image of the sun featured prominently throughout, whether rising majestically over the snowy mountains or shining through the cracks in their drafty barracks. Capturing these brief moments of transcendence through poetry seemed to be an act of resistance against the harsh and utilitarian circumstances of their captivity.

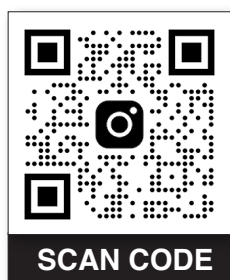
*Dawn, Unhindered* sets six haiku composed by internees in concentration camps and assembly centers at Rohwer, Santa Fe, Lordsburg, Gila, Jerome, and Stockton. I have set them in dialogue with texts from two different wisdom traditions that celebrate the sun as a symbol of justice and enlightenment. The first is the Advent antiphon "O Oriens," which describes Jesus as the dawn of justice breaking through the darkness of tyranny. The second is an ecstatic celebration of light drawn from the *Gitanjali* ("Song Offerings") of the Bengali polymath and anti-imperialist Rabindranath Tagore. Together, the texts bear witness to the power of light and beauty in the midst of darkness and oppression.

I am deeply grateful to Kimi de Cristoforo, the daughter of poet and translator Violet Kazue de Cristoforo, for granting permission to use the haiku from her mother's anthology. Her kindness and support for this project have been invaluable.

-Eric Tuan



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