Craig K. Sandford

PEACE and GRACE

three poems of Wendell Berry

SATB choir and piano

CKSANDFORD
MUSIC

PEACE and GRACE

I. The Want of Peace

All goes back to the earth,
And so I do not desire
Pride of excess or power,
but the contentments made
by men who have had little:
the fisherman's silence
receiving the river's grace,
the gardner's musing on rows.

I lack the peace of simple things.
I am never wholly in place.
I find no peace or grace.
We sell the world to buy fire,
our way lighted by burning men,
and that has bent my mind
and made me think of darkness
and wish for the dumb life of roots.

II. The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's
lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still
water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am
free.

III. Grace
For Gurney Norman, quoting him

The woods is shining this morning.
Red, gold and green, the leaves
lie on the ground, or fall,
or hang full of light in the air still.
Perfect in its rise and in its fall, it takes
the place it has been coming to forever.
It has not hastened here, or lagged.
See how surely it has sought itself,
its roots passing lordly through the earth.
See how without confusion it is
all that it is, and how flawless
its grace is. Running or walking, the way
is the same. Be still. Be still.
"He moves your bones, and the way is
clear."

-Wendell Berry

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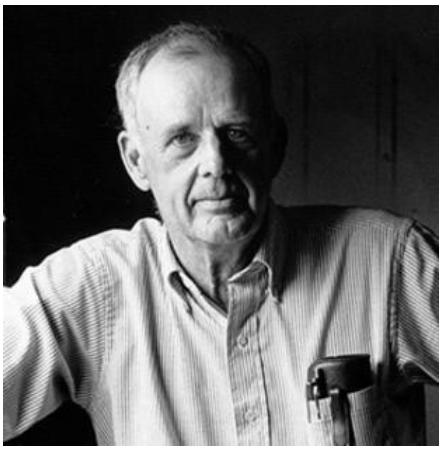

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Poet, essayist, farmer, and novelist **Wendell Berry** was born on August 5, 1934, in New Castle, Kentucky. He attended the University of Kentucky at Lexington where he received a BA in English in 1956 and an MA in 1957. Berry is the author of more than thirty books of poetry, essays, and novels. His collections of poetry include: Given (Shoemaker Hoard, 2005), A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997 (Counterpoint, 1997), Entries: Poems (1994), Traveling at Home (1989), The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry (1988), Collected Poems 1957-1982 (1985), Clearing (1977), There Is Singing Around Me (1976), and The Broken Ground (1964). About his work, a reviewer for the Christian Science Monitor wrote: "Berry's poems shine with the gentle wisdom of a craftsman who has thought deeply about the paradoxical strangeness and wonder life." He has taught at New York University and at the University of Kentucky. Among his honors and awards are fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, a Lannan Foundation Award, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Wendell Berry lives on a farm in Port Royal, Kentucky. (Excerpted from poets.org/poet/wendell-berry)

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Craig Sandford is a composer, singer-songwriter, and music educator from New England. In his choral works, triadic harmony and subtle dissonance intertwine with the natural rhythms of the text to produce dynamic pieces that are accessible yet distinct. Through vivid text painting and thoughtful voice leading, Craig crafts musical stories that capture the essence of the words with lyrical musical lines and shimmering harmonies.

Craig holds a composition degree from the Hartt School, and has completed summer programs in choral conducting, choral pedagogy, and choral composition at Westminster Choir College and Oxford University. His concert works have been performed in the United States and Europe by high school, college, and adult choirs. For 15 years he served as accompanist and assistant director of choral music at the Northfield Mount Hermon School, where he taught musicianship and arts appreciation. Craig has titles in print with GIA Music and Boosey & Hawkes, but self-publishes most of his music. For more information, please visit craigksandford.com.

PEACE AND GRACE

I. The Want of Peace

Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

Craig K. Sandford (b. 1981)

PERUSAL SCORE
Not for performance

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Duration: 2:05

from PEACE AND GRACE

II. The Peace of Wild Things

Wendell Berry (b. 1934) Craig K. Sandford (b. 1981)

With gentle motion (♩ = c.. 64)

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Duration: 2:00

from PEACE AND GRACE

III. Grace

Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

Craig K. Sandford (b. 1981)

Vivace (♩. = ca. 84)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Like a fanfare!

mf *f*

mp *mf*

The woods is shin-ing this morn-ing. Red, gold and green, the leaves

mf

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Duration: 1:35