

for Crystal and Cassie

# My Lord, What a Morning

Traditional American spiritual

arranged by Stuart P. O'Neil

**Rubato, unhurried with reverence**

*mp*

S My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, Oh,

A My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, Oh,

T My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, Oh,

B My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, Oh,

*mp*

5

S My Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

A My Lord, morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

T My Lord, morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

B My Lord, morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

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8

S fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.

A fall, to fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.

T fall, to fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.

B fall, to fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.

11

S My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, Oh,

A oo, My Lord, My Lord, Oh,

T oo, My Lord, My Lord, Oh,

B oo, My Lord, My Lord, Oh,

15

S My Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

A My Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

T My Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

B My Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to

18

S fall, oo

A fall, oo

T fall, oo

B fall, oo

21 opt. soprano solo

S You will hear the trum - pet sound, To wake the

24

S na - tions un - der - ground, Look - ing at my Lord's right

27 tutti *mf*

S hand, When the stars be - gin to fall. You will hear his peo - ple

A *mf*

You will hear his peo - ple

31

S shout, To wake the na - tions un - der ground.

A shout, To wake the na - tions un - der ground.

T *mf*

Hear the peo - ple shout, un - der ground.

B *mf*

Hear the peo - ple shout, un - der ground.

*mf*

34

S At my

A At my Lord's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall, Oh,

T At my Lord's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall, Oh,

B At my Lord's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall, Oh,

dim.

dim.

dim.

rall.

dim.

Tempo I

38

S My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a

A My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a

T My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a

B My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a

Tempo I

p

p

p

p

41 *cresc poco a poco* , *rall.* *f*

S morn - ing, Oh, My Lord, what a

A morn - ing, Oh, My Lord, what a

T morn - ing, Oh, My Lord, what a

B morn - ing, Oh, My Lord, what a

*cresc poco a poco* , *rall.* *f*

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43 *mp*

S morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall, When the

A morn - ing, When the stars to fall, When the

T morn - ing, When the stars to fall, When the

B morn - ing, When the stars to fall, When the

*mp*

46

**rall.**

S stars be - gin to fall.

A stars be - gin to fall.

T stars be - gin to fall.

B stars be - gin to fall.

**rall.**

# For Perusal Only

## About the piece

*My Lord, What a Morning* dates back to pre-Civil War America. Although historians know little about its specific origin, some of the verses appear to be borrowed from *Behold the Awful Trumpet Sounds*, a hymn first published by Richard Allen in Philadelphia in 1801. As is common in the folk tradition, there are multiple surviving versions of this familiar spiritual's melody and text.

This setting should be approached with great restraint and with an elegant and unhurried rubato feel. The tempo should be somewhere between 64 and 70 beats per minute, depending on the ensemble size and the performance space. Keeping in the style of a traditional spiritual, diction should be clear, but also natural and not overdone. Final consonants should be nearly silent (as in "trumpet" and "right") or performed as a light *d* (as in "what a"). Dynamic markings are indicated, but the choir is encouraged to expand on these by following the natural rise and fall of the different lines.

This piece is for Crystal and Cassie Weeks.

## About the arranger:

Stuart P. O'Neil (b. 1969) has taught vocal and instrumental music for Kansas public schools since 1993. He received a bachelor of music education degree from the University of Nebraska and a master of music theory degree from the University of Kansas. In addition to his work as a teacher and composer, Mr. O'Neil also serves as an arranger, accompanist, adjudicator, and conductor. He currently lives in Lawrence, KS, with his family.

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