My Lord, What a Morning

Traditional American spiritual

arranged by Stuart P. O'Neil

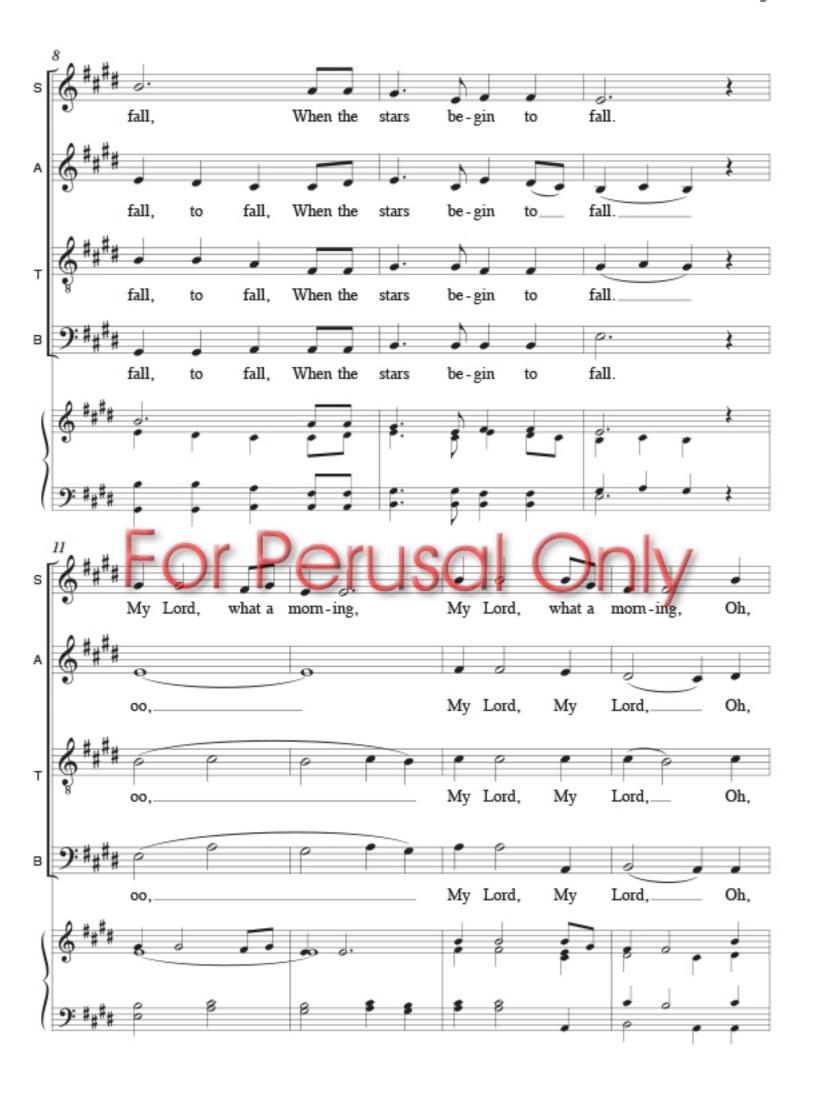




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About the piece

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 t 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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