



WHEN DAVID HEARD

for SATB chorus a cappella

[2022]

Semi-Finalist

FYFE Choral Composition Prize

Sewanee Church Music Conference

text from

2 SAMUEL 18:33

music by

KAI LEUNG



Modern
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Collective

ABOUT THE PIECE

This setting of *When David Heard* is inspired by the raw power of grief conveyed through this simple yet evocative text. The piece uses various vocal textures and effects to communicate the various stages and emotions felt while grieving, from unison lines, to canonic imitation, to lush choral harmonies. The final extended phrase is intended to evoke images of David standing alone in his tower, screaming accusingly with a heavy voice upwards towards heaven.

ORIGINAL TEXT

2 Samuel 18:33 (excerpt)

*When David heard that Absalom was slain
He went up into his chamber over the gate and wept
And thus he said;
O my son, Absalom.
Would God I had died for thee!*

MSC Presents

MSC Presents, launched in 2023 by Toronto's Modern Sound Collective (artistic director: Kai Leung), is a progressive new publication label serving as a professional distribution platform for the music of MSC-affiliated composers. Offering an extremely competitive royalty rate to its artists, this initiative aims to create accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration for the many talented young choral composers in the GTA and beyond.

PRINTING

Choral scores distributed by *MSC Presents* are optimized for 8.5x11 printing.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Kai Leung holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, where he studied voice and composition. He is the Artistic Director of MSC Choirs, where he conducts *Concreamus*, *Datsuzoku*, *Sehnsucht*, and *Frisson*. He also serves as the conductor of the Toronto Festival Singers, the Associate Conductor with the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and as the Assistant Conductor and Composer in Residence at St. Clements Church.

Kai's choral works have been performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Resonance Youth Choir, Jokolo, the Vancouver Youth Choir, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Oakville choir for Children and Youth, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and many more choirs in Canada, the United States, and Europe.



www.kaileung.ca

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Thundering in $\text{♩} = 80$ *mf* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$ *ff* *mf*

TENOR

BASS

When Da - vid heard that Ab - sa - lom was slain, he went

When Da - vid heard that Ab - sa - lom was slain, he went

Piano (for rehearsal only)

Thundering in $\text{♩} = 80$ *mf* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$

5 *rit.*

T.

B.

up to his cham - ber o - ver the gate, and wept.

up to his cham - ber o - ver the gate, and wept.

Pno.

9 Coldly $\text{♩} = 40$ *pp*

S.

A.

and thus he said:

and thus he said:

Pno.

Coldly $\text{♩} = 40$

13 Barely contained $\text{♩} = 60$

A. *mf* Oh, my son! *ff* (tutti) *f* Ab - sa - lom! *ff*

A/T opt solo.

T. *mf* Oh, my son! *ff* (tutti) *f* Ab - sa - lom! *ff*

Pno. **13** Barely contained $\text{♩} = 60$

19 *mp* Dispassionately *pp* A sudden burst of anger

S. My son. Ab - sa - lom. Would God I had

A. *mp* My son. Ab - sa - lom. Would I

T. *mp* My son. Ab - sa - lom. Would God I had

T. *pp* Ab - sa - lom. Would I

B. *pp* Ab - sa - lom. Would I

Pno. Dispassionately A sudden burst of anger

25

S. *f* died for thee. *sfz* Oh, *f* Ab - sa - lom! *ff*

A. *f* die, *mp* *mm* Oh, *sfz* (S2*) *f* Ab - sa - lom! *ff*

T. *f* died for thee. *sfz* Oh, *f* Ab - sa - lom! *ff*

T. *f* die, *mp* *mm* Oh, *sfz* Ab sa - lom! *ff*

B. *f* die, *mp* *mm* Oh, *sfz*

*Alto's may join tenors from mm. 28-30

Pno.

31

As a spirit ascending to heaven ♩ = 40

S. *p* Oh *mp* my son, my son, my *p*

A. *p* Oh *mf* my son, my son, my son, my son, my *p*

T. *unis. p* Oh *f* Ab - sa - lom, my son, my son, my son, my son, my *p*

B. *f* Ab - sa - lom, my son, my son, my son, my son,

As a spirit ascending to heaven ♩ = 40

32 accel.

Pno.

38 rit. *pp*

S. son, my son, my son, my son - *mm*

A. son, my son, my son, my son - *mm*

T. son, my son, *p opt. solo* Ab - sa - lom!

B. *p falsetto*

mm

Pno. rit.

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CATALOG

Choral Works Available **October 15th 2023**
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Mixed / SAB / SATB / SSAATTBB

<i><u>Lying Awake, Waiting</u></i>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sami Anguaya	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<i><u>May This Place</u></i>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<i><u>Too Still for Dreams</u></i>	SSAATTBB & piano	E.K.R. Hammell	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<i><u>Twilight</u></i>	SSAATTBB & piano	Francesca Hauser	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<i><u>When David Heard</u></i>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005

Treble / SA / SSA / SSAA

<i><u>Somewhere in Space</u></i>	SSAA & percussion trio	Emily Green	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
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