

Keep Watch, Dear Lord
SATB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

pdf download - \$1.60
printed - \$3.00



Timothy C. Takach

Keep Watch, Dear Lord

for SATB a cappella choir

Commissioned by Dan and Jana Montgomery in grateful appreciation for the support of family and friends for the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble and its conductor and artistic director, Dr. Timothy A. McMillin.

Text:

Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch.
Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch.
Keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this night,
Give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick.
Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick.
Give rest to the weary, and bless the dying,
Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick.

Soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch.
Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch.
Tend the sick. Bless and give rest.
Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch.

*-Book of Common Prayer, Order for Compline Service
-adapted by TCT*

From the composer:

When I wrote "Keep Watch, Dear Lord" for the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble, the text had already been chosen from the Book of Common Prayer. I'm reluctant to set this kind of well known public domain text without giving it a new shape for the singers and the audience. So I took some liberties: reshaping the text into stanzas and adding the repetition of some lines, which ended up lending itself to a more traditional song form. I believe this allows the music to give new context to the words, providing those who know the prayer with a new way to hear and absorb it.

The repetition of this text makes it feel almost like a mantra - a calming refrain that serves as a reminder. We've all been at the side of someone who is sick, or weary, or troubled, or dying, and as compassionate people we want to do whatever we can to help ease the suffering. But at a certain point we realize that nothing we can do will help. We have to give that responsibility over to a higher power. In this text we are asking God to take over and keep watch.

Much of this writing is quiet, but when the dynamics do rise, let yourselves make this a more fervent, direct prayer, full of passion and hope.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2018



Timothy C Takach.com

For perusal purposes only.
Do not use, copy, or distribute.

Commissioned by Dan and Jana Montgomery in grateful appreciation for the support of family and friends for the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble and its conductor and artistic director, Dr. Timothy A. McMullin.

Keep Watch, Dear Lord

for SATB a cappella

Book of Common Prayer
ad. TCT

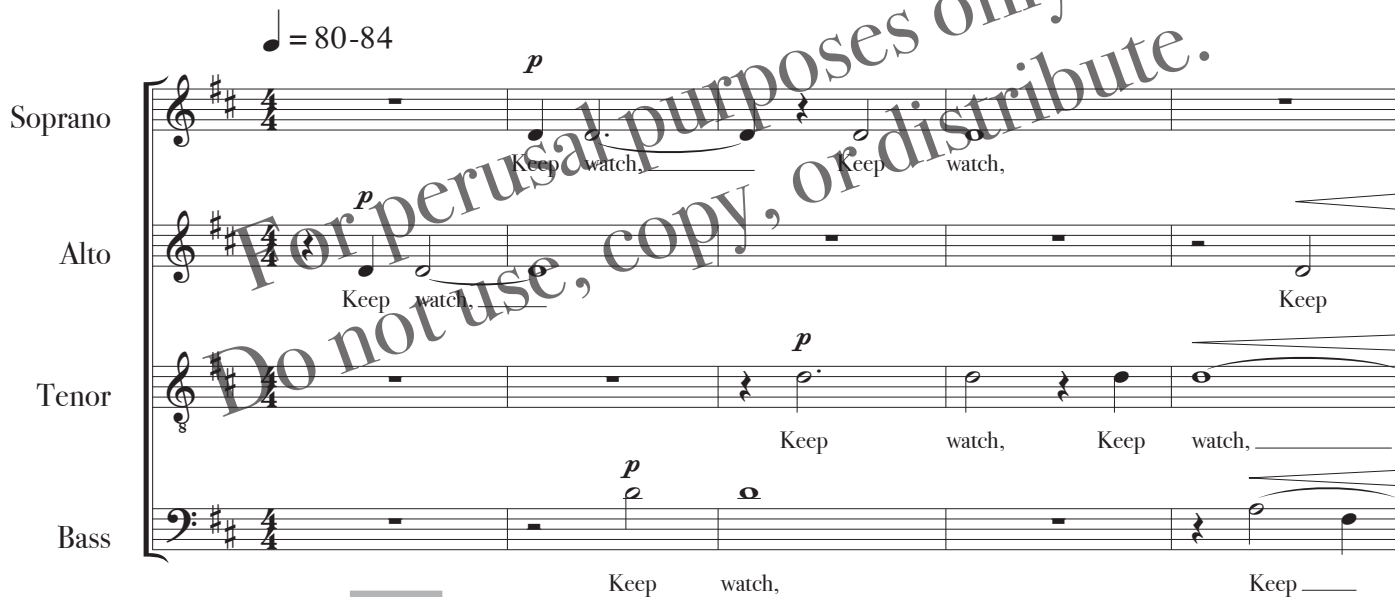
Timothy C. Takach

$\bullet = 80-84$

p

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Keep watch, Keep watch, Keep watch, Keep watch, Keep watch,



6

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

mp *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

watch, Keep watch, dear Lord, keep
Keep watch, dear Lord, keep
Keep watch, Keep watch, Keep watch,



Keep Watch, Dear Lord / Timothy C. Takach

11

S watch. Keep watch, dear Lord, — keep watch.

A watch. Keep watch, dear Lord, — keep watch, keep —

T Keep watch, dear Lord, — keep watch.

B Keep watch, dear Lord, — keep... Keep

mp

16

S — Keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this

A watch. Keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this

T — Keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this

B watch, Keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this

mf *p*

20

S night, give your an - gels charge o - ver those who sleep.

A night, an - gels charge o - ver those who sleep.

T night, an - gels charge o - ver those who sleep.

B night, charge o - ver those who sleep.

mp *p* *mp*

24 *p* *mf*

S Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick. Tend the

A Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick. Tend the

T Dear Lord, tend the sick. Dear

B Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the sick. Tend the sick, dear

29 *f* *pp*

S sick, dear Lord, tend the sick.

A sick, dear Lord, tend the sick, tend the sick.

T Lord, tend the sick. Give rest to the

B Lord, tend the sick, tend the sick. Give rest to the

34 *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

S Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the

A Tend the sick, dear Lord, tend the

T wea - ry, and bless the dy - ing, Dear Lord, tend the

B wea - ry, and bless the dy - ing, Dear Lord, tend the

Keep Watch, Dear Lord / Timothy C. Takach

39 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 88$
mf

S sick. Soothe the suf - f'ring,

A sick. Soothe the suf - f'ring, Lord,

T sick. Keep watch, Soothe the suf - f'ring, Lord, —

B sick. Keep watch, keep watch. Soothe the suf - f'ring, Lord, *p*

43 *p* *mf*

S pit - y the af - flict - ed, shield the joy - ous; and all for

A pit - y the af - flict - ed, shield the joy - ous; and all for

T pit - y the af - flict - ed, shield the joy - ous; and all for

B — the af - flict - ed, shield the joy - ous; and all for

48 *f*

S your love's sake. Keep watch, dear Lord, keep

A your love's sake. Keep watch, keep watch, keep

T your love's sake. Keep watch, dear Lord, keep

B your love's sake. Keep watch, keep

Keep Watch, Dear Lord / Timothy C. Takach

53 watch. *ff*

S watch. Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch. *ff*

A watch. Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch, keep. *ff*

T watch. Keep watch, keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch. *ff*

B watch. Keep watch, dear Lord, keep watch, keep. *ff*

58 *f* *mf* *mp*

S Tend the sick. Bless and give rest. Keep *mp*

A watch. Tend the sick. Bless and give rest. *mp*

T Tend the sick. Bless and give rest. *f* *mf*

B watch. Tend the sick. Bless and give rest. *f* *mf*

63 *ritard* *p*

S watch, dear Lord, keep watch. *p*

A Dear Lord, keep watch. *p*

T Dear Lord, keep watch. Keep watch. *mp* *p*

B Watch dear Lord, keep watch. Keep watch. *mp* *p*



Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Ragnarök		SATB div. a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
Twenty Questions		2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
Kin		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTTB a cappella
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast		TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella

Large Works

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
This is How You Love (ca. 35')		SATB div. a cappella
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra
We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano