

O Beautiful End  
GP - C006  
SATB, a cappella

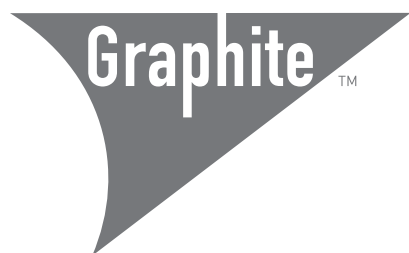
Benjamin M. Cramer

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# Benjamin M. Cramer

## O Beautiful End

for a cappella SATB choir



notable. elevated.

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## Text:

Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.  
Let it not be a death but completeness.  
Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.  
Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest.  
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.  
Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence.  
I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

*- Rabindranath Tagore (d. 1941)*

## From the Composer:

I wrote this piece when I was grieving the loss of one of my mentors and idols while at the same time preparing for the death of a family member. I've dealt with sudden loss before, but I can't fully explain how hard it is to have to say goodbye to someone that hasn't left yet. This poem helped me find solace, and gave me a new perspective on death and loss. I'm endlessly captivated by how the words make something so incredibly painful seem beautiful. The passionate frustration begging them to "Stand still" so that the moment of departure can be savored is utterly heart-wrenching to me. Ultimately, this text tells me that every life we encounter is on a greater journey, and all we can do is guide them to their next path. We can't halt the journey, no matter how badly we want to--so we must embrace their departure.

*- Benjamin M. Cramer, 2018*

In memory of Weston H. Noble (1922-2016)  
With love from all whose lives he touched.

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## O Beautiful End

for a cappella SATB choir

Rabindranath Tagore

Benjamin Cramer

notable. elevated.

*Weeping* ♩ = c. 52

*p*

Soprano  
Peace, my heart, Peace, — my heart, — my Peace, my heart,

Alto  
*p*  
Peace, — my heart, — my Peace, my heart, Peace, — my heart, — my

Tenor  
*p*  
Peace, my heart,

Bass  
*p*  
Peace, my heart,

*Weeping* ♩ = c. 52

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7

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*mf* *mp*

Peace, — my heart — my Peace, my heart, Peace, my heart, let the

*mf* *mp*

Peace, my heart, Peace, — my heart, — my Peace, my heart, let the

*mf* *mp*

Peace, my heart, Peace, my heart, Peace, my heart, let the

*mf* *mp*

Peace, my heart, Peace, my heart, Peace, my heart, let the

7

14

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*f*

time for part-ing be — sweet. Let it not — be a death, — a death but com - plete - ness. — Let

*f*

time for part-ing be — sweet. Let it not — be a death, — a death but com - plete - ness. — Let

*f*

time be — sweet. Let it not — be a death, — a death — but com - plete - ness. — Let

*f*

time be — sweet. Let it not — be a death — but com - plete - ness. — Let

14

20

love \_\_\_\_\_ melt in - to me - mo - ry and pain in - to songs. Let the flight through the sky \_\_\_\_\_

love \_\_\_\_\_ melt in - to me - mo - ry and pain in - to songs. Let the flight

love \_\_\_\_\_ melt in - to me - mo - ry and pain in - to songs. Let the flight through the sky \_\_\_\_\_

love \_\_\_\_\_ melt in - to me - mo - ry and pain in - to songs. Let the flight \_\_\_\_\_

20

26

and in the fold - ing of the wings o - ver the nest. Peace, my

end in the fold - ing of the wings o - ver the nest. Peace, my

end in the fold - ing wings. Peace, my heart, Peace, my

end in the fold - ing wings. Peace, my heart, my Peace, my

26

32 *mp*

heart, Peace, my heart. Let the last touch of your hands be gen - tle like the

heart, Peace, my heart. Let the last touch of your hands gen - tle,

heart, Peace, my heart. Let the last hands, gen - tle,

heart, — my Peace, — my heart. Let the last hands gen - tle,

32

*rit.* ————— *a tempo*

*mf* ————— *ff*

38 flo - wer of the night — of the night. — Stand still, — stand still, — O Beau - ti - ful

gen - tle, — the night. — Stand still, — stand still, — O Beau - ti - ful

gen - tle, — the night. — Stand still, — stand still, — O Beau - ti - ful

gen - tle, — the night. — Stand still, — stand still, — O Beau - ti - ful

*rit.* ————— *a tempo*

38

45

end, \_\_\_\_\_ ah, \_\_\_\_\_ for a mo - ment, a mo - ment, and

end, O Beau - ti - ful end, O Beau - ti - ful end, \_\_\_\_\_ for a mo - ment, mo - ment,

end O Beau - ti - ful end, Beau - ti - ful end, Ah™ \_\_\_\_\_ for a mo - ment, mo - ment,

end, O \_\_\_\_\_ Beau - ti - ful end, Beau - ti - ful end, \_\_\_\_\_ for a mo - ment, mo - ment,

45

With painful resolve ♩ = c 48 rit. ....

50 *opt. solo* *tutti* *mp*

say your last words in si - lence I bow to you, and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

say. I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

say. I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

say. I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

50

With painful resolve ♩ = c 48 rit. ....

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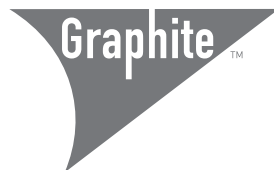


Benjamin M. Cramer is a composer and conductor committed to the creation and continued performance of new music. His music has been described as “modern new tonalism” and “a multicolored fractal sound pattern.” As a composer, Benjamin’s music has been performed internationally; mostly recently in London, Scotland, Wales, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. In 2016, he was a runner up in the London-based Fourth Choir’s International Shakespeare composition contest under the direction of Dominic Peckham.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Benjamin became immersed in choral music, theatre and journalism. In 2009 he came to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa as a physics and music student where he sang in the Nordic Choir under the direction of Dr. Allen Hightower. In 2016, Benjamin completed his Master’s Degree in Vocal Music with distinction, studying both conducting and composition at the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom with Royal Wedding composer Paul Mealar. He is currently serving as composer-in-residence with the King’s Philharmonic Wind Orchestra in Scotland.

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