

PROGRAM NOTES

The Wheel and *Circles* are pieces that were commissioned in 1996 by the Concord Chorus of Massachusetts to commemorate their 50th anniversary. Two poems by Wendell Berry that were related in theme were chosen to set for mixed chorus. *Circles*, titled by the author *Song (4)* dedicated to Guy Davenport, and *The Wheel*, dedicated to Robert Penn Warren.

Berry's poem extols the circles of the seasons and the cycles of life. The circle, we are told, is the most perfect geometric form, having no beginning or end. If you look at the *Circles* score you will see that the notes for women's voices gradually curve up and then down, while on the staff below the men sing in a curve down and then up, so that the two staves put together form a visible circle.

The opening line of *The Wheel*, "At the first stroke of the fiddler's bow," evokes the music of my childhood in rural California when my parents still danced the traditional steps of the reel and square dance to the shout of "the caller."

The Wheel and *Circles* are metaphors for life with its ever-evolving dance in time and unending cycle of birth, death, rebirth, and life. The poet Wendell Berry tells us "only music keeps us here." It is through music we are brought to a more clear vision of our divine source.

—Dave Brubeck

Dave Brubeck (1920–)

A jazz pianist who is noted for his improvisational skills, Dave Brubeck is also the composer of many fully-notated works, including choral, hymns, orchestral, chamber music, ballet suites, a string quartet, solo pieces for piano, violin & voice, and large-scale works for chorus and orchestra. He has been designated a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress and a "Jazz Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, please visit alfred.com.

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Massachusetts to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

The Wheel

SSAATTBB, Accompanied

Poem by
WENDELL BERRY

Music by
DAVE BRUBECK

The musical score is for a choral piece with five parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The lyrics are 'zing zing'. The dynamic marking is mezzo-forte (mf). The score includes a large red watermark that reads 'Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase'.

Lyrics from "Collected Poems:1957-1982" by Wendell Berry. Copyright © 1985 by Wendell Berry. Used by arrangement with North Point Press, a division of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, LLC. All rights reserved.

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S zing - a zing. At the first stroke

A zing zing - a zing. of the fid - dle bow

T zing zing zing zing - a zing.

B zing zing zing zing - a zing.

S *mf* from their seats. bow to their part - ner prom - en - ade

A *mf* from their seats. bow to their part - ner prom - en - ade

T *mf* dan - cers rise from their seats. bow to their part - ner prom - en - ade

B from their seats. Then bow to their part - ner prom - en - ade

9 *gradual accel* $\bullet = 104$ *f*

S do - si - do and a - way we go. All join hands and cir - cle right.

A do - si - do and a - way we go. All join hands and cir - cle right.

T do - si - do and a - way we go. All join hands and cir - cle right.

B do - si - do and a - way we go. All join hands and cir - cle right.

9 *gradual accel* $\bullet = 104$ *f*

11

S Swing your part - ner through the night. Wheel your part - ner round and round.

A Swing your part - ner through the night. Wheel your part - ner round and round.

T Swing your part - ner through the night. Wheel your part - ner round and round.

B Swing your part - ner through the night. Wheel your part - ner round and round.

11

13

S
ye - haw

A
Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

T
8 Swing your part - ner off the ground. Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

B
Swing your part - ner off the ground. Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

13

15

S
mf The dance be - gins to

A
p Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

T
p Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

B
p Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

15

17

S shape it - self in the crowd as coup - les

A Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

T Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

B Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

19

S join, *mp* Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

A Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw *mp* Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw

T Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw *mf* and coup - les join coup - les their

B Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw *mf* and coup - les join coup - les their

19

21

S Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw light - en - ing their feet. They

A Zing zing zang zing - a zing ye - haw light - en - ing their feet.

T move - ment to - geth - er light - en - ing their feet. They

B move - ment to - geth - er light - en - ing their feet.

mf ff mf

21

23

S move in the an - cient cir - cle of the dance. The

A Twang twang - a twang twang twang - a twang - a twang twang

T move in the an - cient cir - cle of the dance. The

B Twang twang - a twang twang twang - a twang - a twang twang

mp mf

23

25

S dance and the song — call each oth - er to be.

A twang twang - a twang twang twang - a twang - a twang

T dance and the song — call each oth - er to be.

B twang twang - a twang twang twang twang - a twang - a twang

25

27

S *Gradual ritard*
Soon they are one rapt in a sin - gle rapt - ure, so that ev - en the

A twang twang - a twang rapt in a sin - gle rapt - ure, so that ev - en the

T *8*
Soon they are one rapt — in a sin - gle rapt - ure, so that ev - en the

B twang twang - a twang rapt in a sin - gle rapt - ure, so — that ev - en the

27 *Gradual ritard*

a tempo
Joyous

30 *mp* *rit.* *f* *bring out*

S night, ev - en the night, has its clar - i - ty. and time is the wheel that

A night, clar - i - ty. and time is the wheel that

T night, clar - i - ty. and time is the wheel that

B night, clar - i - ty. and time is the wheel that

30 *rit.* *a tempo* *Joyous*

cue notes optional

34 *Grand Ritard* *ff*

S brings it round, and time is the wheel that brings it round. With a

A brings it round, and time is the wheel that brings it round. With a

T brings it round, and time is the wheel that brings it round. With a

B brings it round, and time is the wheel that brings it round. With a

34 *Grand Ritard*

a tempo
f
 S do - si - do and a - way we go. We will
mp
 A ching ching ching ching ching ching ching ching ching
f
 T do - si - do and a - way we go. With a
mp
 B Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching
 37 *a tempo*
mp

39
 S dance the hoe - down, hoe - down - ho. With a
 A ching ching ching ching ching ching ching ching ching
 T do - si - do and a - way we go. We will
 B Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching
 39



41

S do - si - do and a - way we go.

A ching ching ching ching ching ching ching ching We will *f*

T dance the hoe - down, hoe - down ho.

B Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching Boom ching ching boom ching ching We will

41

43

S Dance to the fid - dler,

A dance 'til the fid - dler puts down his bow. Dance to the fid - dler, *ff*

T ching ching ching ching ching *mp*

B dance 'til the fid - dler puts down his bow. Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching *mp*

43

46 *mf*

S nev - er stop. Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching

A nev - er stop. Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching

T *ff* ching ching ching Dance to the fid - dler

B *f* Boom ching ching boom ching Dance to the fid - dler

48

S Boom ching ching boom ching And they danced all night by the

A Boom ching ching boom ching And they danced all night by the

T *mf* 'til you drop. Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching

B *mf* 'til you drop. Boom ching ching boom ching ching boom ching

50

S light of the moon and they all danced to- geth - er to the fid - dler's tune.

A light of the moon and they all danced to- geth - er to the fid - dler's tune.

T ching boom ching ching boom ching and they all danced to- geth - er to the fid - dler's tune.

B ching boom ching ching boom ching and they all danced to- geth - er to the fid - dler's tune.

mf ff

53

S At the first stroke of the fid - dle bow the

A Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing

T At the first stroke of the fid - dle bow

B Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing

mf

55

S dan - cers rise from their seats.

A Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing

T the dan - cers rise from their seats.

B Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing

57

S Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing light - en - ing their

A Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing Zing zang zing zang - a zing zang zing light - en - ing their

T coup - les join coup - les their move - ment to - geth - er light - en - ing their

B coup - les join coup - les their move - ment to - geth - er light - en - ing their

60 *Reflective* *p*

S feet. _____ Dance to the song

A feet. _____ Dance to the song

T feet. _____

B feet. _____

60 *Reflective* *p*

64

S Dance to the song call stopped.

A the the has

T Dance to the song til ic

B Dance mus

64

67

S plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

mf Reflective

A In this rap - ture the dead re - turn.

T plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

B plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

67

69

S plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

A Sor - row is gone from them.

T plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

B plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

69

71 *f*

S plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk They are light.

A *p* plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

T *f* *p* They are light. plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk

B plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk They

71

73 *p* *f*

S plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk and turn with them in the

A plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk plunk and turn with them in the

T plunk plunk - a plunk plunk plunk - a plunk steps of the liv - ing turn with them in the

B step in to the steps of the liv - ing turn with them in the

73

Slightly slower

Espressivo

76

mf

S dance. in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure

A dance. in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure

T dance. in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, sweet en - clos - ure

B dance. in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, sweet en - clos - ure

76

Slightly slower
Espressivo

cue notes optional

80

S of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

A of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

T of the song, sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

B of the song, sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

80

84

f

S of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure

f

A of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure

ff

T of the song, Time - less is the wheel Time - less is the

ff

B of the song, Time - less is the wheel Time - less is the

84

88

S of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

A of the song, in the sweet en - clos - ure of the song, of the song,

T wheel Time - less is the wheel Time - less is the

B wheel Time - less is the wheel Time - less is the

88

92 *f*

S of the song, that brings them round.

A of the song, that brings them Time - less is the wheel that

T wheel that brings them Time - less is the wheel that

B wheel that brings them Time - less is the wheel that

92 *f*

96 *Grand Ritard* *ff*

S Brings them round.

A brings them round.

T brings them round.

B brings them Time - less is the wheel.

96 *Grand Ritard* *ff*

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