

Composer Notes

Come, O Love is the final movement of *The Wedding Suite*, which was originally composed for the wedding of Joshua and Michelle Lutz, two very dear friends of mine. While it began as a tribute to Joshua and Michelle, it evolved into something very personal to me. I cannot presume to completely understand the intricate geometry of love, but I can say that it is multidimensional and is surely the most profound marriage of happiness and sadness men can know.

This is a plea of longing and a celebration of joy. It is my greatest desire that it helps you discover just how powerful the miracle of love, as seen in Joshua and Michelle, really is.

Stephan Carlson

Come, O Love and makest me to die.
Won't you prepare a sweeter grave than this,
my breast, where lies my beating heart?

Haste, O Love, and sealeth up mine eyes
that peace might crowd my vision with the sight
of gentle, hazel eyes.

Pulchra es amica mea.
(Thou art beautiful, my love)

So come, O Love, and leadeth me beyond your garden gate
and bury me in the load of your embrace,
at last to know the succor of the rain.

So come, O Love, prepare my splintered bones a humble pyre,
and let me drown in the oceans of your fire
that I might sink in to the deeps of you.

Pulchra es amica mea.

Raise, O Love, and makest me alive,
O let me breathe the mercy of your soul
and be reborn again.

Hail, O Love, in which I am made new.

COME, O LOVE

for S.A.T.B. divisi voices, a cappella

Words and Music by
STEPHAN CARLSON

Gently, reserved (♩ = ca. 63-66)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

5

pare a sweet-er grave than this, my breast, where lies my

pare, sweet-er grave than my breast, where lies my

pare a grave, but not my breast, where lies my beat-ing

pare a sweet-er grave than my breast, where lies my beat-ing

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12 Meekly supplicating (♩ = ca. 80)

9

heart, my heart? Haste, O love, and

heart, my heart? Haste, O love, and

heart, my heart? Haste, O love, and

heart, my heart? Haste, O love, and

14

seal - eth up mine eyes that peace might crowd my vi - sion with the

seal mine eyes that peace might crowd me with

seal mine eyes that peace might crowd me with the

seal - eth up mine eyes that peace might crowd me

seal mine eyes that peace might crowd my vi - sion with

seal mine eyes that peace, vi - sion with

18 sight of

rit. e decresc. **p**

sight of ha - zel eyes.

rit. e decresc. **p** **pp**

sight of ha - zel eyes. Pul -

rit. e decresc. **p**

sight of ha - zel eyes, ha - zel eyes.

rit. e decresc. **p**

ha - zel eyes, gen - tle eyes.

sight of ha - zel eyes, gen - tle eyes.

Reverently (♩ = ca. 54-56)

24 **pp**

Ful - chra es, a - mi - ca me - a. So

- chra es, a - mi - ca me - a. So

pp

So come, O

pp

So

29 Entreating (♩ = ca. 80)

mp

come, so come, O love, and lead me to your gate.

mp

come, love, lead to your gate, your
love, and lead-eth me be-yond your gar-den gate.

mp

love, lead-eth me be-yond your gar-den gate,
lead me to your gate. O love.

mp

come, love, lead to your gate.

32

Bur - y me in the loam of grace. At

gate. Bur - y me in your grace. At

and bur-y me in the loam of your em-brace. At

Bur - y me in the loam of your grace. At

37

sub. p *mf*

last to know the rain. So come, O

sub. p *mf*

last to know the rain, the rain.

sub. p *mf*

last to know the suc-cor of the rain, the rain. So come, O

sub. p *mf*

last to know the rain.

41

mf

love, pre - pare my splin-tered bones a hum-ble pyre

mf

Love, pre - pare, hum - ble pyre

mf

love, pre - pare my splin-tered bones a hum-ble pyre

mf

Love, pre - pare hum - ble pyre

mf

Love, pre - pare, pyre

44

_____ and _____ let me drown in the o - ceans of your fire, _____

_____ and let me drown in _____ your fire, _____

_____ and let me drown in the o - ceans of your fire, _____

_____ and let me drown in o - ceans of fire, _____

_____ and let me drown, o - ceans fire, your

With vulnerability (♩ = ca. 63-66)

48

rit. _____ that I might sink _____ in - to the deeps of you, of _____

rit. _____ sink in the deeps, _____ you, _____ of _____

rit. _____ that I might sink _____ in - to the deeps _____ of you. _____

rit. _____ in the deeps, _____ you,

fire, sink in the deeps, you, of _____

52 *rit.* *pp* [54] With hushed adoration (♩ = ca. 54-56)

you.

you.

Pul - chra es, a -

of you.

you. Pul - chra es, a -

56 *accel.* *p* Raise, O

Raise, O

accel. *p*

Raise, O

mi ca

accel. *p*

mi - ca me - a. Raise, O

accel. *p*

mi - ca me - a. Raise, O

With increasing urgency (♩ = ca. 80)

61

rit. *mp*

love, my ash un - to the skies _____ and

rit. *mp*

love, my ash un - to the skies _____ and

love, my _____ and

rit. *mp*

love, my ash un - to the skies _____ and

love, my _____ and

rit. *mp*

love, my ash un - to the skies _____ and

65

rit.

I will write your name in - to the stars, and _____ with the spheres col -

rit.

I will write in the stars, and _____ with the spheres col -

rit.

I _____ will write in the stars, and _____ with the spheres col -

rit.

I will write in the stars, _____ and _____ with the spheres col -

With overflowing longing (♩ = ca. 54-56)

And make me a -

69 *mf* *f*

lide. Come, O love! And make me a -

mf *f*

lide. Come, O love! And make me a -

mf *f*

lide. Come, O love! And make me a -

mf *f*

lide. Come, O love! And make me a -

74 *mf* *f*

live! O let me breathe the mer - cy of your soul

mf *f*

live! let me breathe your soul

mf *f*

live! O let me breathe the mer - cy soul

mf *f*

live! O love, breathe your soul

live! O love, breathe your soul

mf *f*

live! O love, breathe your soul

78

rit. *mp* *mf* *p*

and be re - born a - gain, a - gain, a - gain.

rit. *mp* *mf* *p*

and be re - born a - gain, a - gain, a - gain.

and be re - born a - gain, a - gain, a - gain.

rit. *mp* *mf* *p*

and be re - born a - gain, a - gain, a - gain.

rit. *mp* *mf* *p*

and be re - born a - gain, a - gain, a - gain.

83

With anticipation (♩ = ca. 44-46)

pp *rit.*

Hail, O love in which I am made new.

pp *rit.*

Hail, love, in which I am made new.

pp *rit.*

Hail, O love, in which I am made new.

pp *rit.*

Hail, O love, in which I am made new.