1001371P JONAS RASMUSSEN SATB US $2.95

SATB CHOIR, A CAPPELLA

JONAS RASMUSSEN

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About The Composer

Jonas Rasmussen (b. 1992) is a conductor, composer, teacher, and one of today's most visible international advocates for choral music on social media. With millions of views from followers worldwide, he has built a large digital platform that inspires singers, conductors, and audiences through content on choral singing, conducting, sound, and musical play. His work combines artistic ambition, strong communication skills, and a clear desire to make choral music vibrant and accessible.

Alongside his digital work, Jonas has established himself internationally and has conducted in 15 countries, including at Carnegie Hall in New York City. He is conductor of Academic Choir Aarhus and Youth Choir Aarhus U, founder of the professional vocal group Ensemble Novum, and teacher of classical choral conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus.

Jonas and his choirs have won major international prizes, including awards at the World Choral Championships in Tokyo, the European Choir Games, and the EBU's Let the Peoples Sing in Barcelona. His choirs have been ranked in the top 10 on INTERKULTUR's list of the world's top 1,000 choirs. In 2024, Jonas won first prize at the Gheorghe Dima International Music Competition for Conductors in Romania.

He holds a Master of Music with distinction in Choral Studies from the University of Cambridge and a bachelor's degree in choral conducting from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

As a teacher and mentor, Jonas is committed to fostering talented young musicians. He teaches at the Royal Academy of Music Aarhus and serves as a mentor with Forge Conducting.

About The Piece

The text of Frydeligt med jubelkor—often called the "May Song"—traces back to the late 15th century. Morten Børup, rector of the Latin School in Aarhus (c. 1490–1526), originally wrote it in Latin as Carmen vernale. The Danish version most choirs sing today stems from C. F. Moth's 1895 translation for the Kolding Latin School. Over time the poem became attached to two very different melodies: a dignified medieval tune (known from the 1582 collection Piae Cantiones and familiar to Aarhus ears from the City Hall bells every day at noon) and Carl Nielsen's 1907 melody, which captures spring's brightness with buoyant, dotted rhythms. The poem itself is a hymn to creation: stanza two even hints at medieval cosmology (earth, sea, air, sun), and the final stanza gathers the whole of life into praise.

My setting grew out of Academic Choir Aarhus' 40th-anniversary concert, where we invited choir schools from across Denmark to join us in the great Symphonic Hall in Aarhus. We needed a festive, sing-together piece and this text was an obvious choice. Yet, I felt a tension between the two traditional melodies: the medieval tune, noble and somewhat world-weary, sits at odds with the text's exuberance, while Nielsen's version—wonderfully spring-like—can feel almost too jaunty for the poem's breadth. I wanted to hold both truths at once: the season's fresh energy and the older, contemplative gaze that looks through nature and sees the Creator.

The music therefore travels through a spring landscape in three distinct treatments of a single new tune. We begin in modal clarity—spare lines and open sonorities—move into a brighter, hopeful section that carries the text on light and breath led by the sopranos and altos, while the tenors and basses paint a forest soundscape with birds, trees and wind. We finish with a full-voiced celebration worthy of a "Choir of Jubilation."

A performance recording and additional resources can be found at endeavormusicpublishing.com

Text

Joyfully our spirits sing,
eager earth rejoices!
Winter's ended, comes the Spring,
now to lift our voices!
Trees and flowers, birds of air
wear their colors bright and fair,
wonderful creation!
Sun returns to length'ning days;
misty Aprils, blooming Mays,
glorious transformation!

'Neath the forest shadows deep
as a river flowing,
Songbirds tuneful chorus keep
e'en as winds are blowing.
Storm clouds grow all thundering,
rushing rainfall now they bring,
thirsty earth to nourish.
Golden rays o'er meadow beam,
diamond dew drops glint and gleam;
radiant flowers flourish.

Fair all creatures great and small,
fair the hand that made them.
Wise are they who heed the call,
care, protect, and save them.
May we ne'er forsake the joy
hearts and voices can employ,
nature's bold defender.
Bless'd are we whose eyes have seen
earth abundant, evergreen,
life in Summer splendor!

English text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

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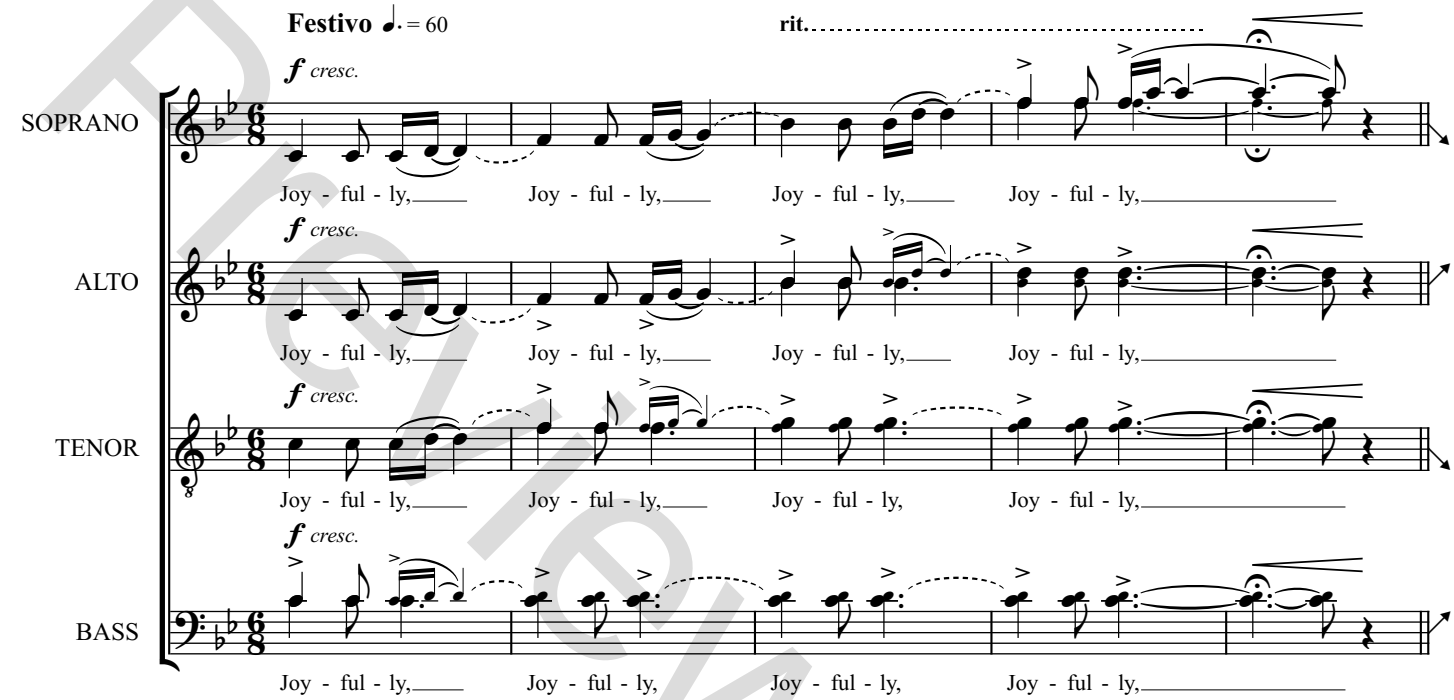
For Academic Choir Aarhus' 40-year Jubilee. English edition premiered at Carnegie Hall, February 15, 2027, Jonas Rasmussen, Director

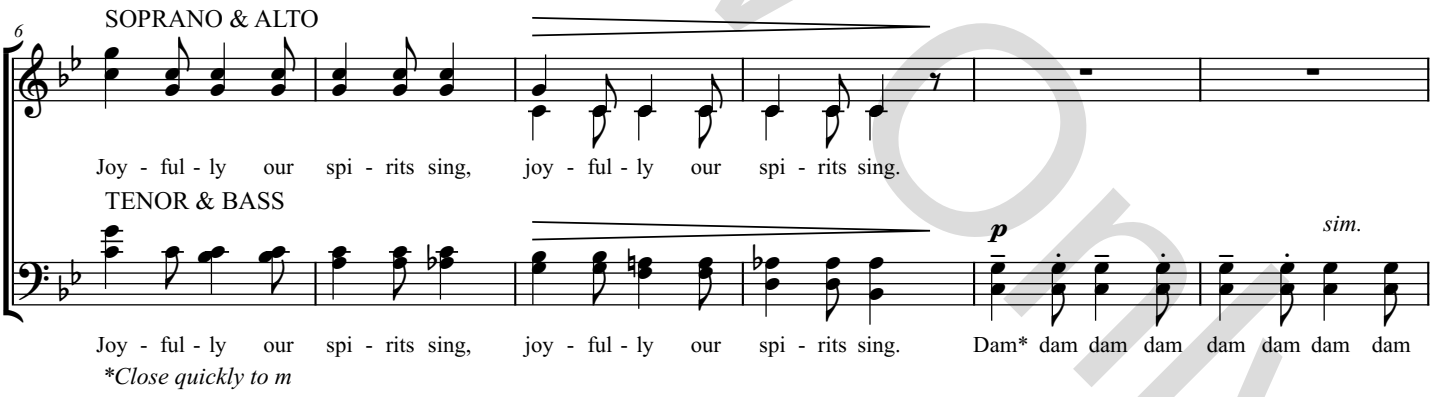
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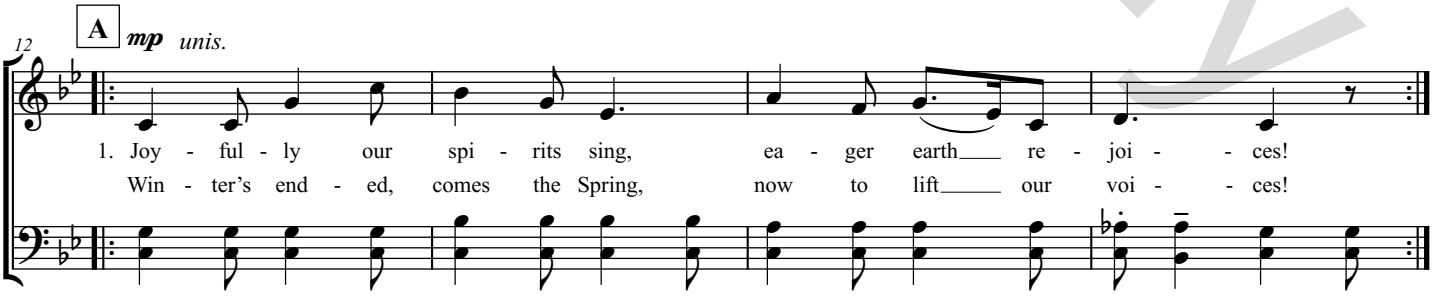
For SATB Choir, A Cappella

Latin and Danish texts by
MORTEN BØRUP and C. F. MOTH
English text by
CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI

music by
JONAS RASMUSSEN







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*If pitches become low for sopranos, altos take the lead while sopranos let out warm air until the notes are within range
**freely improvise nature sounds (birdsong, and gentle, undistracting forest ambiance), remaining well beneath the sopranos and altos at all times

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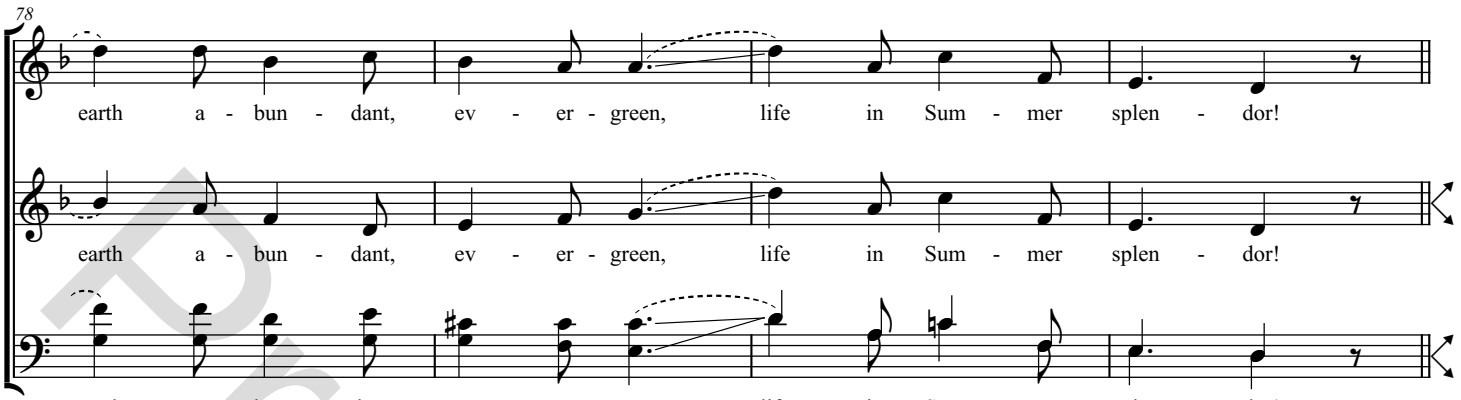
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