

PROGRAM NOTES

If Thou Wilt Be Perfect was commissioned by St. Peter's Choir, St. Louis, Missouri, David Sinden, Conductor. The premiere performance took place on October 14, 2018, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary Festival Eucharist.

If Thou Wilt Be Perfect is an anthem that uses as its central text one of the Gospel's best-known, yet least commonly sung, verses: "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven."

—Melissa Dunphy

TEXT

If thou wilt be perfect,
go sell what thou hast, and give to the poor,
and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:
and come follow me.
Amen, I say to you,
that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
And again I say to you:
It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle,
than a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.
And ev'ry one that hath left riches for my name's sake,
shall receive a hundred times as much,
and life everlasting.
Many that are first, shall be last:
and the last shall be first.

Text adapted from Matthew 19:21–30
Douay-Rheims Bible (1899)

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

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Commissioned by St. Peter's Choir, St. Louis, Missouri, David Sinden, Conductor

If Thou Wilt Be Perfect

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Text adapted from Matthew 19:21–30
Douay-Rheims Bible (1899)

Melissa Dunphy
(ASCAP)

Largo ♩ = 69

Soprano
If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Alto
If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Tenor
If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Bass
If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

Largo ♩ = 69

5
wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

wilt be per - fect, if thou wilt be

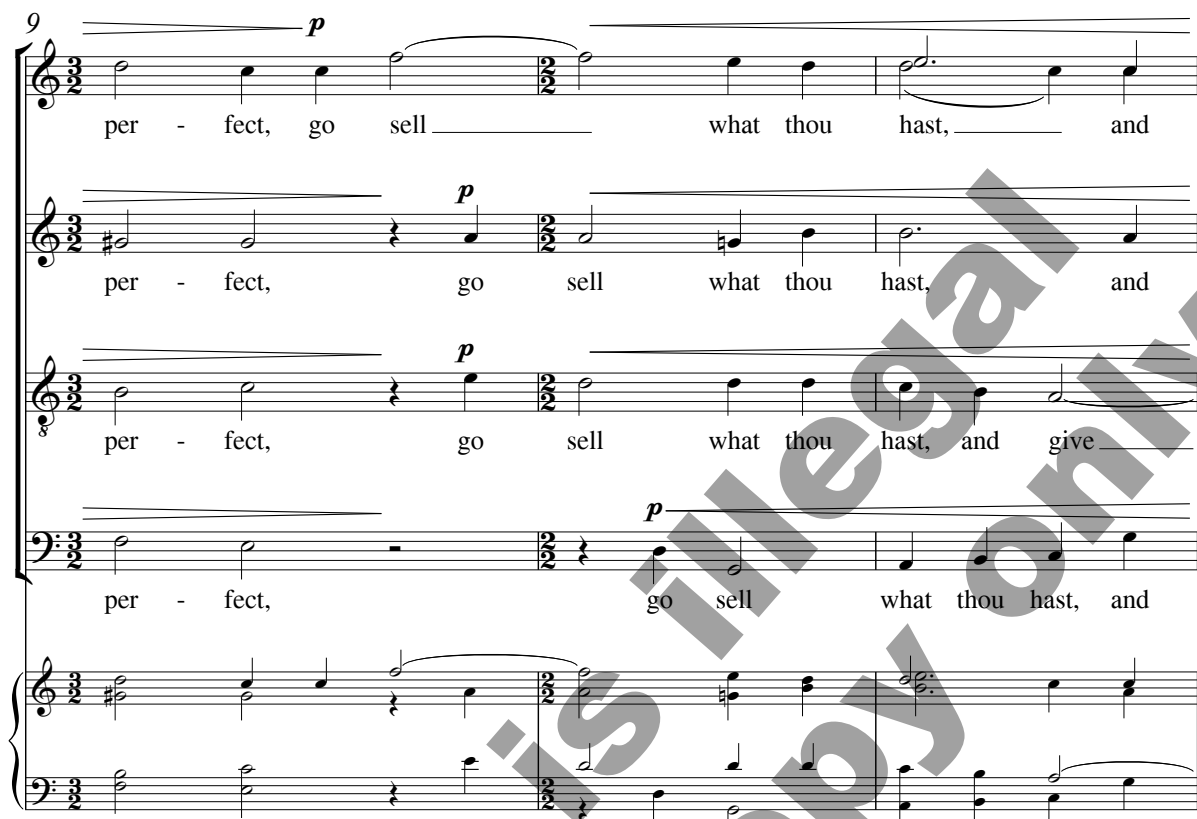
9 *p*

per - fect, go sell what thou hast, and

per - fect, go sell what thou hast, and

per - fect, go sell what thou hast, and give

per - fect, go sell what thou hast, and



12 **Poco più mosso**

give to the poor, and thou shalt have trea - sure, thou -

give to the poor, and thou shalt have trea - sure,

to the poor, and thou, thou shalt have

give to the poor, and

Poco più mosso



16

f

— shalt have — trea - sure in heav - en, in heav - en:

f

thou — shalt have trea - sure in heav - en, heav - en:

f

8 trea - sure, have trea - sure in heav - en, heav - en:

f

thou shalt have trea - sure in heav - en, heav - en: and

20

p *Andante* ♩ = 112

and come fol - low me.

p *mf*

and come fol - low me. A - men, I

p

and come fol - low me.

p

come fol - low me.

Andante ♩ = 112

24 *mf*

that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter

say to you, a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter

mf

that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter

mf

that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter

27

in - to the king - dom of heav - en.

in - to the king - dom of heav - en.

mf

in - to the king - dom of heav - en. A - men, I

in - to the king - dom of heav - en.

31

p that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter heav - en.

p that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter heav - en.

p say to you, — a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter heav - en.

p that a rich man shall hard - ly en - ter heav - en. *mf* And a -

35

mp It is eas - i - er for a

mp It is eas - i - er for a cam - el to

mp It is

gain I say to you: *mp* It is

39

cam - el to pass through the eye of a

pass through the eye of a needle, the eye of a

eas - i - er for a cam - el to pass through the eye of a

eas - - i - er for a cam - - el to

43

needle, than a rich man to

need - dle, than a rich man to ent - er in - to the

needle, than a rich man to ent - er in - to

pass through the eye of a needle, than a

47

f

en - - ter in - to heav - - en, the

f

king - dom of heav - en, the king - dom of heav - en, of

f

heav - - en, the king - dom of heav - en, of

f

rich man to en - - - ter



51

p

king - dom of heav - en. Ev - 'ry one that

p

heav - - en. Ev - 'ry one that hath left

p

heav - - en. And ev - 'ry one that hath left

p

heav - - en. And ev - 'ry one that



55

hath left rich - es for my name's

rich - es, rich - es for my name's

rich - es for my name's sake, my name's

hath left rich - es for my name's

59

sake, shall re - ceive a

sake, shall re - ceive a hun - dred

sake, shall re - ceive a hun - dred

sake, shall re - ceive a

63

hun - dred times as much. _____

times as much, and life _____ *mp*

times _____ as much, and life _____ *mp*

hun - dred times as much. _____

67 *rit.* **Largo** ♩ = 69

Man - y that are _____ *pp*

ev - er - last - ing. Man - y that are _____ *pp*

ev - er - last - ing. Man - y that are _____ *pp*

Man - y that are _____ *pp*

rit. **Largo** ♩ = 69

71

first, and the last

first, shall be last: and the last

first, and the last

first, and the last

first, and the last

75 *rit.*

shall be first.

shall be first.

shall be first.

shall be first.

shall be first.

rit.