

## 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**  $\text{♩} = 69$

Soprano      *pp*      *p*  
 If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Alto      *pp*      *p*  
 If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Tenor      *pp*  
 If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

Bass      *pp*  
 If thou wilt be per - fect, if thou

**Largo**  $\text{♩} = 69$

Keyboard (for rehearsal only)

5      *p*  
 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*

and

16

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

20

Andante  $\text{♩} = 112$

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

Andante  $\text{♩} = 112$

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

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

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

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

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

27

*mf*

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

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

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 (h) 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. And a -

*mf*

35

*mp*

It is eas - i - er for a

*mp*

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

*mp*

It is

*mp*

gain I say to you: It is

39

cam - el to pass through the eye of a  
pass through the eye of a nee - dle, 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

nee - - - dle, than a rich man to  
nee - - - dle, than a rich man to ent - er in - to the  
nee - - - dle, than a rich man to ent - er in - to  
pass - through the eye of a nee - - - dle, than a



47

en - - - ter in - to heav - - - en, the  
king - dom of heav - en, the king - dom of heav - en, of  
heav - - - en, the king - dom of heav - en, of  
rich man to en - - - ter

51

king - dom of heav - en. Ev - 'ry one that  
heav - - - en. Ev - 'ry one that hath left  
heav - - - en. And ev - 'ry one that hath left  
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

sake, shall re - ceive a

63

hun - dred times as much.

times as much, and life

times as much, and life

hun - dred times as much.

rit.

Man - y that are

ev - er - last - ing. Man - y that are

ev - er - last - ing. Man - y that are

Man - y that are

rit.

Man - y that are

Largo  $\text{♩} = 69$

Man - y that are

71

first, and the last  
first, shall be last: and the last  
first, and the last  
first, and the last

pp

p

pp

pp

pp

75 *rit.*

shall be first.  
shall be first.  
shall be first.  
shall be first.  
*rit.*

2018 | 3:45