Composer's Notes

It was a genuine gift to be asked to write this piece for the wedding of Barney, my brother, to his wife, Libby, in 2022. The wedding took place in Cambridge just after Christmas and was a moving, joyous, and beautiful occasion. The choir was wonderful—formed of singers from VOCES8, Apollo5 and other UK ensembles, with Eamonn Dougan and Robert Hollingworth conducting. With other premieres written for the wedding by Taylor Scott Davis and Eric Whitacre, and the baptism of my nephew, Orlando also taking place in the ceremony, it was an event that will live long in our memories.

This piece is very much written as a "miniature," a moment for thought, reflection, and beauty. I presented Barney and Libby with a number of choices for the text and was thrilled when they chose this beautiful poem by Hafiz. As you sing the piece, you can look both for the moments of space and calm, and for the moments where the music can flow and soar. In particular, I'd encourage you to give wings to the music in bar 34, before finishing with that most magical and important of words: "Love."

—Paul Smith, July 2023

Text

Let us be like two falling stars in the day sky.
Let no one know of our sublime beauty
as we hold hands with God.
And burn into a sacred existence that defies,
that surpasses every description of ecstasy
and Love.

—Hafiz (ca. 1320–1389) *tr.* Daniel Ladinsky

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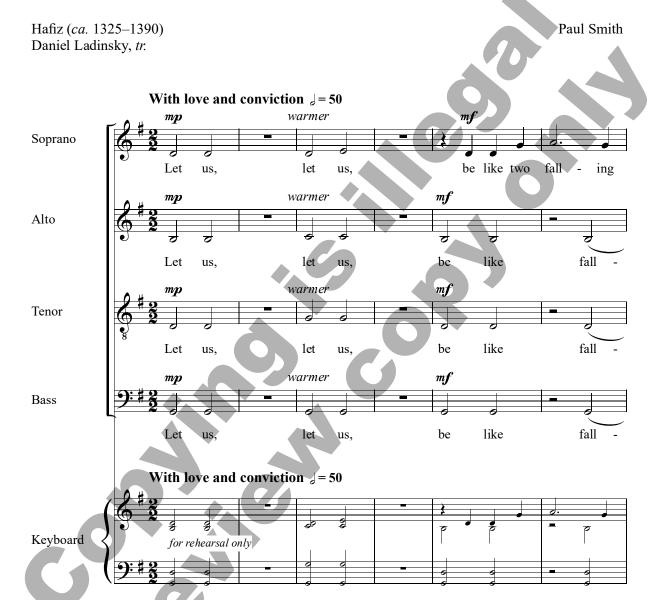
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Catalog No. 9324

For Barney and Libby, on their wedding day

The Day Sky

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied



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God,

with

God,

we

hold

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