

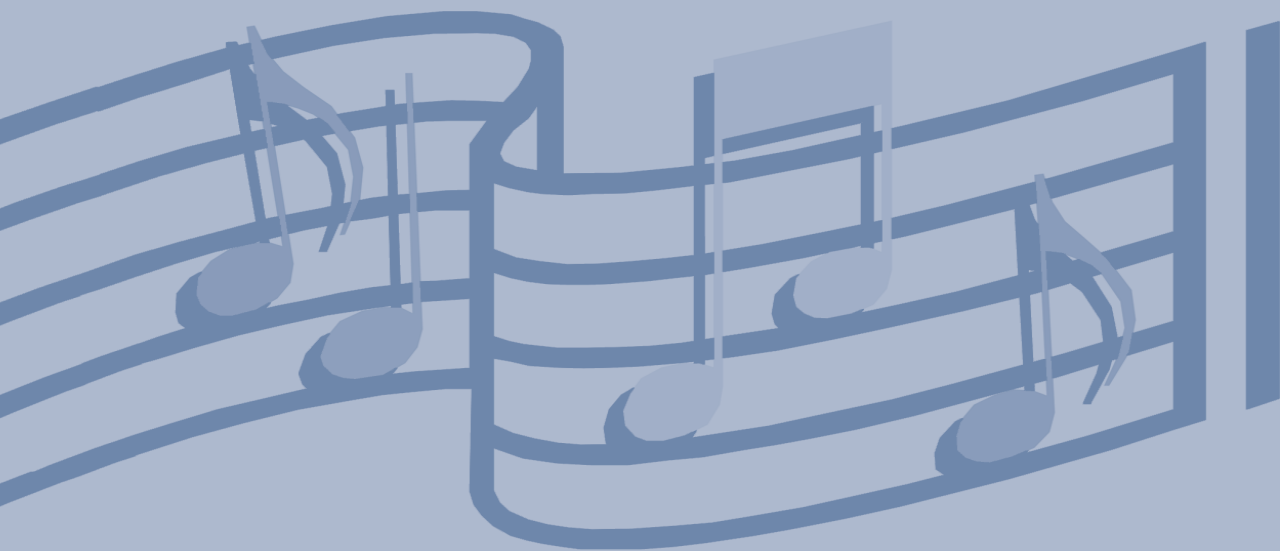
KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING
Gray

SATB div., unaccompanied

WW1633

KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING

SATB divisi



Arranged by
Jerrell R. Gray



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About the Work

This Negro Spiritual, as with most, is based on biblical text that illustrates a spiritual teaching and instructions to flee from the bonds of slavery. In the first canonized Gospel, Matthew recounts a parable of ten virgins in preparation for the Bridegroom. Matthew parallels the readiness of the wise virgins to the believing Israelites, and the foolish virgins to the unbelieving Israelites. Matthew's purpose is to provoke a sense of perpetual preparation amongst the believing Jews. He presents a clear and concise Gospel in order to lead unbelieving Israel into making an intelligent commitment to Christ.

The word "trimmed" in the original language of the New Testament is defined as *prepared or made ready*. This is the indicative mood of the text, and suggests that the Apostle Matthew is affirming the factuality of the scripture. Although all of the virgins fell asleep, the wise virgins were indeed prepared for the Bridegroom (Christ) with their lamps trimmed.

It is imperative that the ensemble feel the natural pulse on beats one and three. The singers should sing on the breath with intensity on the vowel, and sing with direction through the phrase. All accent and dynamic markings are important. Although the voice-leading is relatively simple, some chords may present a nice challenge to your ensembles' aural skills. This setting should not be restricted to church walls, but rather respected as a sacred art form for all venues and audiences.

-Jerrell R. Gray

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Children, don't get weary!
For, the time is drawing nigh!

Keep your lamps tripped and burning!
The time is drawing nigh!

Troubles and trials will soon be over!
The time is drawing nigh!

Judgement is coming; you better be ready!

Christian journeys will soon be over!
The time is drawing nigh!

-Traditional Spiritual

About the Composer

Jerrell R. Gray (b. 1989), pianist, conductor, and composer, is a senior at Southern University and A&M College where he will receive a degree in music. Mr. Gray is a native of Chicago, Illinois. His experience includes studying at the Sherwood Conservatory of Music and competing, as well as placing, at the collegiate level in the DeBose National Piano Competition. Mr. Gray is also a member of the Baton Rouge Symphony Chorus and Mu Phi Epsilon Honors Music Fraternity.

Mr. Gray is a versatile musician. He has been the musical director of many musicals and has recently completed lead piano on an independent film that premiered in the Sundance film Festival. Mr. Gray has three other published choral works, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Nobody Knows the Trouble I See*, and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* with GIA Publications, Inc.

Mr. Gray has been invited to present his published works at conferences in Atlanta, Georgia, and Hampton, Virginia. He is the Founder and Director of the Neoteric Chorale. Mr. Gray has also been featured on NBC 33 News/WVLA. Mr. Gray will continue on his education pursuing a Master's in Conducting and Composition.

Duration: Approx. 3:45

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

3

SATB divisi

Traditional Spiritual

Arranged by
JERRELL R. GRAY (b. 1989)

Freely, with emotion

p

Soprano

Chil - dren, don't get wear - y! Chil - dren, don't you get

Alto

Chil - dren, don't get — wear - y! Chil - dren, don't you get

Tenor

Chil - dren, don't get — wear - y! Chil - dren, don't get

Bass

Chil - dren, don't get wear - y! Chil - dren, don't you get

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

4

wear - y! Chil - dren, don't get wear - y; For, the time is draw - ing

wear - y! Chil - dren, don't — you get wear - y; For, the time is draw - ing

wear - y! Chil - dren, don't get — wear - y; For, the time is draw - ing

wear - y! Chil - dren, don't get wear - y; For, the time is draw - ing

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8 Unhurried, with conviction (♩ = 86) *mp*

nigh! Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing! *mp*

nigh! Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing! *mp*

nigh! Be read - y, *mp*

nigh! Be read - y, read - y, read - y,

12

Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing! Keep your lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing! Keep your lamps

read - y! Be read - y, read - y! Be

read - y, read - y! Be read - y,

15

mp

trimmed and burn - ing; the time is draw - ing nigh! _____

mp

trimmed and burn - ing; the time is draw - ing nigh! _____

mp

8 read - y; the time is draw - ing nigh! _____

mp

read - y; the time is draw - ing nigh! Be read - y,

19

mf

Read - y, _____ read - y! Trou - bles and tri - als will

mf

Read - y, _____ read - y! Trou - bles and tri - als will

mf

8 Be _____ read - y! Trou - bles and tri - als will

mf

read - y, read - y! Trou - bles and tri - als

22

soon be o - ver! Trou-bles and tri - als will soon be o - ver!

soon be o - ver! Trou-bles and tri - als will soon be o - ver!

soon be o - ver! Trou-bles and tri - als will soon be o - ver!

soon be o - ver! Trou-bles and tri - als will soon be o - ver!

Broaden

25

Trou-bles and tri-als will soon be o - ver; The time is draw-ing nigh! _____

Trou-bles and tri-als will soon be o-ver; The time is draw-ing nigh! Sin-ner,

Trou-bles and tri - als soon be o-ver; The time is draw-ing nigh!

Trou-bles and tri - als soon be o-ver; The time is draw-ing nigh! Oh, Sin-ner,

Freely

29 *sf*

Judge - ment is com - ing; you bet-ter be read - y!

sf

Judge - ment is com - ing; you bet-ter be read - y!

sf

8 Judge - ment is com - ing; you bet-ter be read - y!

sf

Judge-ment _ is com - ing! _ Oh, Sin - ner, _ you bet-ter be read - y!

Marcato
Tempo I (♩ = 86)

33 *f*

Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver! Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver!

f

Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver! Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver!

f

8 Chris - tian jour - neys soon be _ o - ver! Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver!

f

Chris - tian jour - neys soon be o - ver! Chris - tian jour-neys will soon be o - ver!

*poco rit.**a tempo**poco a poco cresc.*

37

Chris-tian—jour-neys will soon be o-ver; For the time is draw-ing nigh! The

Chris-tian—jour-neys will soon be o-ver; For the time is draw-ing nigh! The

Chris-tian jour-neys soon be o-ver; For the time, yes, it's draw-ing nigh! The

Chris-tian jour-neys soon be o-ver; For the time, yes, it's draw-ing nigh! The

molto rall.

40

time is draw-ing nigh! The time is draw-ing nigh!

time is draw-ing nigh! The time is draw-ing nigh!

time, yes, it's draw-ing nigh! The time is draw-ing nigh!

time, yes, it's draw-ing nigh! The time is draw-ing nigh!

