

PAUL WINCHESTER

CELEBRATE TODAY!

SATB with Piano and optional Guitar, Bass, and Drums

About the Composer

Paul Winchester is an award-winning composer, performer, educator, and music director in Minneapolis, MN.



Praised for “beautiful harmonic and melodic language,” Paul's work has been commissioned and performed by the The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, The Society for New Music, the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, the Wooster Symphony, and numerous church and school choirs. Paul received his B. Mus in Composition from The College of Wooster and his M. Mus in Composition at Syracuse University, where he was a Heaton Fellow and a recipient of the Brian Israel Award.

As a performer, Paul performs regularly throughout the Twin Cities in both studio and live settings as a singer and multi-instrumentalist. Paul has served as the Music Director for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka since 2014.

In addition to his music career, Paul is also a professional game developer, notably serving as lead designer and producer for most of the product line of Star Wars: Imperial Assault, winner of the 2015 Board Game of the Year Origin Award.

More Music

A Holy Night – SATB Unaccompanied – 6'30”

If It Was Your Son – SATB Unaccompanied – 6’

Lux Benedictum – SATB, Piano, and Percussion – 3’

Magnificat – SATB, Violin, Cello, and Piano – 5'45”

Mourning Poem – SATB and Piano – 4'45”

Stabat Mater – SATB with soloists, Piano, Timpani, and 2 Percussionists – 9’

Stillness Meditation – SATB and Piano – 5’

Remember Love – SATB and Piano – 3'45”

Where You're Meant To Be – SATB and Piano – 4'15”

5 Pillars – Tenor, Percussion, and Piano – 27'30”

At Sunset – Voice and Piano – 5'45”

I Am Not There – Voice and Piano – 4'30”

Dialogue for Clarinet and Piano – 6'30”

Syncphony – Clarinet, Cello, Piano, Electric Guitar, and 2 Percussionists – 20’

These pieces and more available for purchase at paulwinchester.com.

Text

It's not a festival or holy feast.
There's no occasion of renown.
And yet today we're gonna celebrate
the simple glories that abound.

The love of a child or a deer running wild
or a time just to stop and breathe;
forming a bond, or growing beyond
what we conceive.
I can barely believe the gifts we receive.

In quiet worship or in loud acclaim
we come to mark this sacred time
when what might be ignored as commonplace
gives us a taste of the sublime.

Every today and each one on the way
is a cause for us to celebrate.
How can we start to perceive in our hearts
the joys that await
if we just integrate what life can create?

See what an ordinary day can bring.
Small joys of a heart that's free;
moving with our spirits
we can't help but shout and sing as we say:

Celebrate today!

Composer's Note

While there are countless choral pieces honoring and celebrating specific holidays and occasions, when I was set to write a piece on the topic of celebration, I wanted to instead elevate the everyday and how worth celebrating it is. One of the hallmarks of Unitarian Universalism is that it lifts up as sacred or holy things what might otherwise be regarded as mundane or profane. But, even as we lift it up in our hearts, we need to be sure that we take the time not just to recognize these wonders, but to actively celebrate them as well.

This piece combines a text honoring the small miracles of the everyday with a musical setting featuring heavy use of jazz chords and syncopation to create a fun, exuberant, and vivacious feeling in the both the singers and the audience.

For extra fun and enjoyment, a rock band can be added to the musical ensemble as well, with parts available at www.paulwinchester.com/celebrate-today.

CELEBRATE TODAY!

Paul Winchester

Joyful; Swung 8ths ♩ = 120

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system shows the Piano introduction with a *mf* dynamic. The second system features the vocal entries for Soprano/Alto (S/A) and Tenor/Bass (T/B), both starting with a *mp* dynamic and moving to *f* for the 'Ah' phrase. The lyrics 'Oh Ah It's not a' are written under the vocal lines. The third system continues the piano accompaniment with dynamics of *f* and *mf*. The fourth system shows the vocalists singing 'fes - ti - val or ho - ly feast.' and 'There's no oc - ca - sion of re - nown.' with a *mf* dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

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6
28

S/A
and breathe; form-ing a bond, or grow-ing be-yond what we con-ceive.

T/B
and breathe; form-ing a bond, or grow-ing be-yond what we con-ceive.

Pno.

32

S/A
f
I can bare-ly be-lieve

T/B
f
the gifts we re-ceive.

Pno.

37

S/A
mf
See what an or-di-na-ry day can bring.

T/B
mf
See what an or-di-na-ry day can bring.

Pno.

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55

S/A
loud ac-claim _____ we come to mark this sa - cred time _____

T/B
loud ac-claim _____ we come to mark this sa - cred time _____

Pno.

60

S/A
_____ when what might be ig - nored as com - mon - place _____

T/B
_____ when what might be ig - nored as com - mon - place _____

Pno.

64

S/A
_____ gives us a taste of the sub - lime. _____

T/B
_____ gives us a taste of the sub - lime. _____

Pno.

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10 Θ Coda

81 Soprano only

S/A Ce - le-brate to-day! —

T/B

Pno. *mf*

86 *mf* Tutti

S/A e - v'ry to - day — and each one — on the way is a cause for us to ce - le - brate. How

T/B ba ba ba ba is a cause to ce - le - brate. How

Pno. *mf* *f*

90

S/A — can we start to per - ceive in our hearts the joys — that a - wait — if we

T/B can we start to per - ceive in our hearts the joys — that a - wait —

Pno. *f*

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107 *f* Soprano only
 shout and sing as we say: Ce - le-brate - to - day! ____

T/B
 shout and sing as we say: ____

Pno. *f* *mf*

111 *mf* Alto only
 Ce - le-brate to-day! ____

T/B *mf* Tenor only Bass only
 Ce - le - brate to-day! ____ Ce - le-brate to-day!

Pno. *mf*

116 *f* Tutti
 Ce - le - brate to - day!

T/B *f* Tutti
 Ce - le - brate to - day!

Pno. *f*