

PAUL WINCHESTER

SIN. EXIST.
LIVE.

SATB chorus with Electric Guitar

Text

Fly to greatest heights
Sink (sin) to greatest depths

One still must live (exist) in consequence

Defy the strongest strength
Flee transgression; flee perfection; flee authority

Exist (live) in hard reality

Composer's Note

The text and concept for this piece happened organically and almost by accident. In the search for texts to use, I could not find anything that matched, on a phonetic and textural level, the vigor and motion that I imagined would be present in the writing for the guitar.

So I set out to write a simple text myself, starting with just the word “fly,” which carried the energy I was looking for, both conceptually and sonically. From there, the superlatives and opposites took shape, moving into the word “sink.” This is where the concept of sin entered unexpectedly. When composing for a choir, one of the technical elements that one must keep in mind is that a word that is sung on a long note is not fully defined until its final consonant is sung. Thus, when singing and holding the word “sink,” it could just as easily wind up being the word “sin” (among several others as well). Upon realizing this linguistic coincidence, I decided to make it an integral part of the poetic structure.

In this conception, sin is not meant necessarily in the religious sense, but rather as being or acting in a manner contrary to one's core principles or purpose. This broader sense of sin as a state of being led me to ponder other such states. The second, “exist,” is meant as more of a neutral state – what might be categorized as simply surviving. And finally, “live” in this context is meant as being in deep accord with oneself – to be thriving. These three states are not constants, but modes of being that we all will oscillate between at different points in time and in different circumstances.

And that is the essence of this text and this piece – that as we move in and out of these different states and try to pull away from “sin” and into “life,” the world and its realities carry on unrelentingly. We cannot control what the world does around us; we can only try to coexist with things as they are and then, from within that reality, move towards our best selves and our most fulfilling and meaningful lives.

for The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, Matthew Culloton, dir.
upon the occasion of their 20th season

SIN. EXIST. LIVE.

Vigorous, unyielding ♩ = 132

Paul Winchester

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Electric Guitar

Clean *f* *p* P.M. ----- (continue 16ths) P.M. -----

5

S

A

T

B

E.Gtr.

fp Fly

fp Fly

fp Fly

fp Fly

P.M. -----

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15

S

fp *fp* *f*

Fly

18

A

fp *f*

Fly

T

fp *f*

Fly

B

fp *f*

Fly

E.Gtr.

f *p* *f*

P.M.-----

19

S

to great-est heights

mf

Fly to great-est

A

heights

mf

Fly to great-est

T

heights.

mf

Fly to great-est

B

heights.

mf

Fly to great-est

E.Gtr.

mf

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33

31

S

A

T

B

E.Gtr.

mp

mp

p

P.M.

(open)

(open)

Sink;

Sink

Sink

Sink;

35

S

A

T

B

E.Gtr.

p

p

sim.

Sin (n)

Sin (n)

Sin (n)

Sin

Sin

Sin

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45

S ist Ex - ist *mp* De -

A Ex - ist *mp* in con - se - quence.

T in con - se - quence.

B in con - se - quence

E.Gtr. *mp*

49

S *mf* fy

A

T

B da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da

E.Gtr. *mf* P.M. *mp*

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Musical score for measures 54-55. The score includes parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Electric Guitar (E.Gtr.).

- Soprano (S):** Measures 54-55. Dynamics: *pp* (pianissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). Lyrics: "the strong - est".
- Alto (A):** Measures 54-55. Dynamics: *pp* to *mf*. Lyrics: "the strong - est".
- Tenor (T):** Measures 54-55. Lyrics: "da da".
- Bass (B):** Measures 54-55. Lyrics: "da da".
- E.Gtr.:** Measures 54-55. Dynamics: *mf*. Instruction: "Swell with Volume Pedal".

Tempo: 5/4. Measure 54 has a 4/4 time signature change. Measure 55 ends with a 3/4 time signature change.

Musical score for measures 56-57. The score includes parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Electric Guitar (E.Gtr.).

- Soprano (S):** Measures 56-57. Dynamics: *f* (forte). Lyrics: "strength".
- Alto (A):** Measures 56-57. Dynamics: *f*. Lyrics: "strength".
- Tenor (T):** Measures 56-57. Dynamics: *mf* (mezzo-forte) for accompaniment. Lyrics: "da da".
- Bass (B):** Measures 56-57. Lyrics: "da da".
- E.Gtr.:** Measures 56-57. Dynamics: *f*. Lyrics: "strength".

Tempo: 4/4. Measure 56 has a 3/4 time signature change. Measure 57 ends with a 3/4 time signature change.

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75

S
flee _____ per - fec - tion;

A
gres - sion. _____ flee per - - - fec -

T
_____ _____ _____ *mp* per - fec -

B
_____ _____ _____ *mp* Flee per -

E.Gtr.
_____ (open) _____ (open) _____ *sim.* _____

79

S
_____ **80** *f* _____ flee _____

A
_____ _____ _____ *mf* _____ *mf* _____
tion _____ flee au - tho - ri - ty;

T
_____ _____ _____ *mf* _____ *mf* _____
tion _____ flee au - tho - ri - ty;

B
_____ _____ _____ *mf* _____ *mf* _____
fec - tion; _____ flee au - tho - ri - ty;

E.Gtr.
_____ _____ _____ _____ *f* _____ (gliss. normally)

Distortion ON

gliss. both on fretboard and with whammy bar from unspecified pitch to G#

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88

S
re - a - li - ty

A
live re - a - li - ty

T
re - a - li - ty

B
re - a - li - ty

E.Gtr.
P.M.
f p

92

S
Ex - ist in hard re -

A
Ex - ist in hard re -

T
Ex - ist in hard re -

B
Ex - ist in hard re -

E.Gtr.
P.M.
p

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106

S

A

T

B

E.Gtr.

mp Fly

fp Fly

fp Fly

fp Fly

mf *p* cresc. poco a poco al fine

111

S

A

T

B

E.Gtr.

mf Fly *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

mf *ff*

non rit.

non rit.

non rit.

non rit.

non rit.

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 with 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'

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"

To Love Again – Voice and Piano – 22'

Dialogue for Clarinet and Piano – 6'30"

Syncophony – Clarinet, Cello, Piano, Electric Guitar, and 2 Percussionists – 20'

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