

Benjamin Williams

Return to Your Rest, My Soul

for

SATB Choir

Return to Your Rest, My Soul

for
SATB Choir

Duration: 3 min.

It came as a bit of a shock to me when Jamie Meaders, Chair of the Music Department at Mississippi College for the last decade, announced that he was going to step down from his position to devote more time to his teaching and art. I think it came as a surprise to us all. He has been an incredible model of devotion and care for students and faculty alike and his leadership is unquestionably inspiring (I'm sure it would be quite the pleasure to sing in his choir!).

When I thought about how I might be able to honor his work in music my mind went from thanksgiving to respect; appreciation to encouragement for his continued role in the Department. But in the end, I thought that perhaps the most important sentiment at this time would be to wish for him a restful sabbatical as he is rejuvenated in preparation for an exciting new year. I turned to Psalm 116 and its message of returning one's soul to rest and trust that this music may serve as a launching platform for a summer of renewed spirit.

Return to Your Rest, My Soul

Benjamin Williams
(b. 1982)

Psalm 116

(2013)

Plaintively ♩ = 84

mp

Soprano
He heard my voice, He heard my cry, He turned His ear to me. When I was

Alto
He heard my voice, He heard my cry, He turned His ear to me. When I was

Tenor
He heard my voice, He heard my cry, He turned His ear to me. When I was

Bass
He heard my voice, He heard my cry, He turned His ear to me. When I was

6

mf 3

S
stressed and o - ver - come I called, "Lord, save me!" Re-turn to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been

A
stressed and o - ver - come I called, "Lord, save me!" Re-turn to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been

T
stressed and o - ver - come I called, "Lord, save me!" Re-turn to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been

B
stressed and o - ver - come I called, "Lord, save me!" Re-turn to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been

Return to Your Rest, My Soul

13

S good; Re - turn to your rest, my soul, the Lord has been good to you. The Lord pro -

A good; Re - turn to your rest, my soul, the Lord has been good to you. The Lord pro -

T good; Re - turn to your rest, my soul, the Lord has been good to you. The Lord pro -

B good; Re - turn to your rest, my soul, the Lord has been good to you. The Lord pro -

19

S tects my eyes from tears, my feet that I might walk. He's full of grace and right-eous - ness; when I called,

A tects my eyes from tears, my feet that I might walk. He's full of grace and right-eous - ness; when I called,

T tects my eyes from tears, my feet that I might walk. He's full of grace and right-eous - ness; when I called,

B tects my eyes from teard, my feet that I might walk. He's full of grace and right-eous - ness; when I called,

25

S He saved me! What shall I re - turn, my Lord, for your good - ness to me? What shall I re - turn my

A He saved me! What shall I re - turn, my Lord, for your good - ness to me? What shall I re - turn my

T He saved me! What shall I re - turn, my Lord, for your good - ness to me? What shall I re - turn my

B He saved me! What shall I re - turn, my Lord, for your good - ness to me? What shall I re - turn my

Return to Your Rest, My Soul

32

S *f* Lord? The Lord has been good to me. I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion, call on the name of the *mf*

A *f* Lord? The Lord has been good to me. I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion, call on the name of the *mf*

T *f* Lord? The Lord has been good to me. The Lord has been good, The Lord has *mf*

B *f* Lord? The Lord has been good to me. The Lord has been good, The Lord has *mf*

38

S *mp* Lord. I am your ser - vant Lord, you freed me from my chains. *rit.* *p* Al - le - lu - *A tempo* *f*

A *mp* Lord. your ser - vant Lord, you freed me from my chains. *p* Al - le - lu - *f*

T *mp* been good. your ser - vant Lord, you freed me from my chains. *p* Al - le - lu - *f*

B *mp* been good. your ser - vant Lord, you freed me from my chains. *p* Al - le - lu - *f*

44

S *mf* ia, al - le - lu - ia. *mp* Ah Mmm *p*

A *mf* ia, al - le - lu - ia. *mp* Ah Mmm *p*

T *mf* ia, al - le - lu - ia. *mp* Ah Mmm *p*

B *mf* ia, al - le - lu - ia. *mp* Ah Mmm *p*