

Benjamin Williams

Risen

*for*  
Soprano and Guitar

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Duration: 7 min.

Having worked alongside Kristen Johnson, soprano, for a few years now and Tanja Miric, guitar, this past year at Mississippi College, I had in the back of my mind that I'd like to at some point write something for both of them. Little did I realize that they would end up planning a joint recital for which I could write for both of them at the same time! As we brainstormed a bit together, it came up that it might be a good opportunity to compose a new setting of a classic hymn text. While there were many favorites to choose from, I settled on Wesley's "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," given the proximity of the recital to Easter.

This setting uses the original text, including many verses which were unfamiliar to me that I had the pleasure of learning during this time. Given the great number of verses, I was concerned that the text may gradually blur together, so I broke it up into three movements. The first deals with the conflict between Christ and death that was ultimately won on our behalf. The slower second movement focuses on just one short verse that highlights the magnitude of our fallenness and His corresponding love. The piece ends with an exciting song of rejoicing and praise for His mighty work of triumph.

for Kristen and Tanja

# Risen

John Wesley  
(1703-1791)

(2014)

Benjamin Williams  
(b. 1982)

## I.

$\text{♩} = 132$  (in one)

*mp*

Soprano



“Christ the Lord is risen to -

Guitar



*mf* *mp*

S



day, risen to - day,” Sons of men and an-gels say!

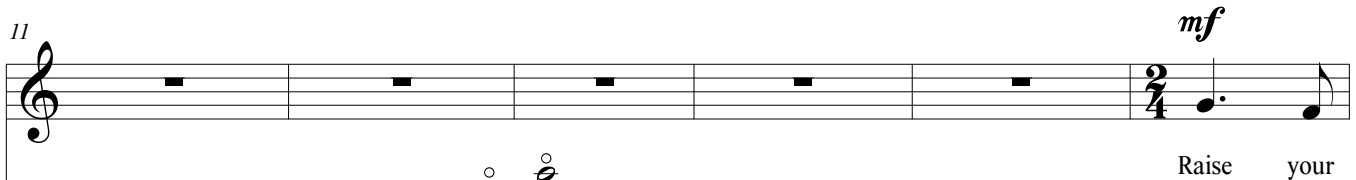
*f* *mp*

Gtr.



*f* *mp*

S



Raise your

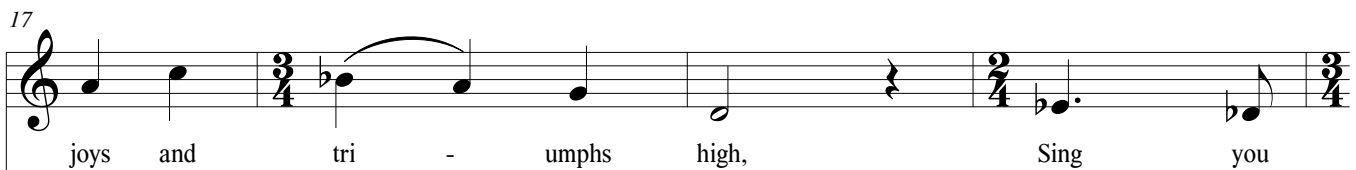
*mf*

Gtr.



*f* *mp*

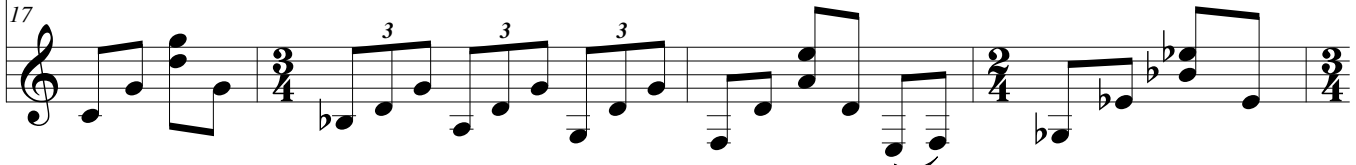
S



joys and triumphs high, Sing you

*mf*

Gtr.



*mf*

21

S

Hea - vens, and Earth re - ply.

Gtr.

*mf*

25

S

Love's Re-deem-ing work is done;

Gtr.

*f*

29

S

He fought the fight, the Bat - tle's won.

Gtr.

32

S

Lo! our Sun's E-clipse is o - ver, Lo! He sets in Blood no more.

Gtr.

36

S

Gtr.

*ff* *f* *mf*

41

S

Vain is the

Gtr.

*f* *mf* *mp*

47

S

Stone, the Watch, the Seal, for Christ has burst the Gates of

Gtr.

52

S

Hell!

Gtr.

*f*

60 *mf*

S

Death in vain for - bids \_\_\_\_\_ his Rise: now Christ has

Gtr.

*mf*

65 *f*

S

o - pened Par - a - dise!

Gtr.

*f*

69

S

Lives a - gain our glor - ious King.

Gtr.

72

S

Where, O Death, is now your Sting? Once He died our

Gtr.

76

S

Souls to save. Where's your Vic-to - ry, O Grave? \_\_\_\_\_

Gtr.

76

80

S

Soar we now, where Christ has led, Fol-low-ing our Ex - al - ted Head,

Gtr.

80

84

S

Made like Him, like Him we rise: Ours the Cross; the Grave; the

Gtr.

84

87

S

Skies. \_\_\_\_\_

Gtr.

87