



The Song of Simeon:

Three settings of the
Nunc Dimittis

for SATB by

ALASTAIR STOUT

AS 03

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The **Nunc dimittis** (also **Song of Simeon** or **Canticle of Simeon**) is a canticle from a text in the second chapter of Luke (Luke 2:29–32).

Simeon was a devout Jew who, according to the book of Luke, had been promised by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem for the ceremony of consecration of the firstborn son, Simeon was there, and he took Jesus into his arms and uttered the words:

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

Front-page artwork by Krista Johnston

in memory of Peter Smart

The Song of Simeon:

Three settings of the Nunc Dimittis

Nunc Dimittis

LUKE 2: 29 - 32

ALASTAIR STOUT

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 50$

S. *p* (echo) de - part_____

A. *p* (echo) de - part_____

T. *p* Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part_____ in peace:_____ ac -

B. *p* Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part_____ in peace:_____ ac -

(for rehearsal only)

5

S. *pp* in peace: *f* For mine eyes have seen thy sal-

A. *pp* in peace: *f* For mine eyes have seen thy sal -

T. cord - ing to thy word.

B. cord - ing to thy word

(for rehearsal only)

9

S. *mf* va - tion, sal - va - tion, *p*

A. *mf* va - tion, sal - va - tion, *p*

T. *mf* Which thou hast pre - pared *p* be - fore the face of all peo - ple;

B. *mf* Which thou hast pre - pared *p* be - fore the face of all peo - ple;

(for rehearsal only)

13 *f* *p* **accel. poco a poco**

S. To be a light

A. To be a light

T. *f* To light - en the gen - tiles: and to be the

B. *f* To light - en the gen - tiles: and to be the

(for rehearsal only)

17 **(accel.)** *mf* *f* $\text{♩} = \text{c.60}$

S. to be the glo - ry, to be the glo - ry, glo -

A. *mf* *f* to be the glo - ry, to be the glo - ry, glo -

T. glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry, and to be the

B. glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry, and to be the

(for rehearsal only)

poco rall.

a tempo (♩ = c.60)

21

ff *mf* *mf*

S. - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. Glo - ry to the

A. - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. Glo - ry to the

T. glo - ry - - - - - Glo - ry to the

B. glo - ry - - - - - Glo - ry to the

(for rehearsal only)

25

S. Fa - ther, Glo - - - ry to the Son: and to - - - the Ho - ly

A. Fa - ther, Glo - - - ry to the Son: - - - and to the Ho - ly

T. Fa - ther, Glo - ry to the Son: and to - - - the Ho - ly

B. Fa - ther, Glo - ry to the Son: - - - and to - - - the Ho - ly

(for rehearsal only)

28

S. *ff* Ghost; As it was in the be - ginn - ing, *f* is now, —

A. *ff* Ghost; As it was in the be - ginn - ing, *f* is now, —

T. *ff* Ghost; As it was in the be - ginn - ing, *f* is now, —

B. *ff* Ghost; As it was in the be - ginn - ing, *f* is now, —

(for rehearsal only)

31

S. *mf* — and ev - er shall be: world with - out end. *mp* A - men. *p*

A. *mf* — and ev - er shall be: world with - out end. *mp* A - men. *p*

T. *mf* — and ev - er shall be: world with - out end. *mp* A - men. *p*

B. *mf* — and ev - er shall be: world with - out end. *mp* A - men. *p*

(for rehearsal only)

rall.

Nunc Dimittis

ALASTAIR STOUT

$\text{♩} = 63$

S. *f* Lord, now let-test thou thy ser - vant *mp* de - part in___ peace:_____

A. *f* Lord, now let-test thou thy ser - vant *mp* de - part in___ peace: ac - cord-ing to thy word.____

T. *f* Lord, now let-test thou thy ser - vant *mp* de - part in___ peace:_____

B. *f* Lord, now let-test thou thy ser - vant *mp* de - part in___ peace: ac-cord-ing to thy word._____

(for rehearsal only)

5 *mf* ————— *ff* ————— *p*

S. ————— For mine eyes have seen_ thy sal - va - tion, ————— be -

A. *mf* < *f* > *mf* For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared be -

T. *mf* < *f* > *mf* For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared be -

B. *mf* < *f* > *mf* For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared be -

(for rehearsal only)

9

S. *p* *ff*
fore the face of all peo - ple; To be a light to light - en the gen - tiles:

A. *p* *f* *ff*
fore the face of all peo - ple; To light - - en the gen - tiles:

T. *p* *ff*
fore the face of all peo - ple; To be a light to light - en the gen - tiles:

B. *p*
fore the face of all peo - ple;

(for rehearsal only)

14 *f* *ff* *poco rall.* *a tempo*

S. *f* *ff*
and to be the glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael.

A. *f* *ff*
and to be the glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. Glo-ry to the

T. *f* *ff*
and to be the glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael.

B. *f* *ff*
and to be the glo - ry, and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael.

(for rehearsal only)

18 *f* *mp*

S. — and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginn - ing, is now, and ev - er

A. Fa - ther, *mp* As it was, is now, and ev - er

T. — And to the Ho-ly Ghost; *f* *mp* As it was is now, and ev - er

B. and to the son: *f* *mp* As it was, is now, and ev - er

(for rehearsal only)

22 *rall.* *p*

S. shall be: A - - men.

A. shall be: world with - out end. A - - men.

T. shall be: world with out end. A - men.

B. shall be: with-out end. A - men.

(for rehearsal only)

Nunc Dimittis

ALASTAIR STOUT

$\text{♩} = \text{c.100}$

mp

S. Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cord - ing

A. Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cord - ing

T. Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cord - ing

B. Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cord - ing

(for rehearsal only)

7

S. to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared; -

A. to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared; -

T. to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared; -

B. to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy sal - va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared; -

(for rehearsal only)

poco rall. a tempo

13

S. — be-fore the face of all peo - ple; To be a light to light - en the Gen - tiles;

A. — be-fore the face of all peo - ple; To be a light to light - en the Gen - tiles;

T. — be-fore the face of all peo ple; To be a light to light - en the Gen - tiles;

B. — be-fore the face of all peo ple; To be a light to light - en the Gen - tiles;

(for rehearsal only)

20

S. *f* and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. *mp* Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and

A. *f* and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. *mp* Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and

T. *f* and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. *mp* Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and

B. *f* and to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - rael. *mp* Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and

(for rehearsal only)

28

S. *p*
to the Son: and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - ginn - ing,

A. *p*
to the Son: and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - ginn - ing,

T. *p*
to the Son: and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - ginn - ing,

B. *p*
to the Son: and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - ginn - ing,

(for rehearsal only)

34

S. *ff* *rall.* *p*
is now, and ev - er shall be. World with out end. A - men.

A. *ff* *p*
is now, and ev - er shall be. World with out end. A - men.

T. *ff* *p*
is now, and ev - er shall be. World with out end. A - men.

B. *ff* *p*
is now, and ev - er shall be. World with out end. A - men.

(for rehearsal only)

Choral Music by Alastair Stout:

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, 2nd Service (SATB)

“His Second Service evening canticles are tenderly conceived short settings, shot through with an almost nostalgic air. They are characteristically concise and whilst there is nothing too difficult here and no divisi, only a confident choir will deliver an effective performance”

Organist's Review, October 2008

Motets(SATB)

“...Stout has a nice way with contemporary harmonies that are not off-putting for the average congregation. He is a real choral composer who knows his way around four parts; most of the writing is for all parts all the time. [Drop, Drop Slow Tears] has a nice descending line, always in sixths between two parts and answered by two others. Lovely choral writing.”

The American Organist, October 2008

At Dawn I Seek You (SATB & organ)

“All of Stout's works are atmospheric, but not more so that the anthem for choir and organ At Dawn I Seek You. A salutary reminder in these troubled times that an Islamic text can make ideal devotional material in a Christian context, this is Stout at his most lyrical and luminous.”

Organists' Review October 2008

Darkening Skies (SATB & organ)

“The choir perform very well indeed Alastair Stout's Darkening Skies which was commissioned for the choir and explores the journey from the dark battlefield into the light of God, transforming deathly grey to living red.”

Church Music Quarterly, 1998

For more information please visit:

www.stoutworks.net



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