

G-10480 JOHNSON Watching for the Lord

WATCHING FOR THE LORD

ELIANA

Two-part Mixed Voices,
Keyboard and Guitar
with C Instrument

Orin Johnson

SIMPLE
GIFTS

UNISON,
TWO- AND
THREE-PART
MUSIC

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Notes

It feels, sometimes, as if Christians have lost a sense of urgency to their missionary zeal. After nearly 2,000 years, is there any expectation that Christ might return on the very next cloud we see in the sky? It also feels, sometimes, as if Christ can't return to us soon enough. We notice around us injustices, warfare, and sharp divisions, and yearningly pray, "Please—let this next cloud at last bring Christ's return, and his wholeness, peace, and joy!"

"Watching for the Lord" attempts to speak to both circumstances, and the related feelings of abandonment, isolation, and uncertainty, as well as trust, conviction, and hope—each one a part of our lives at some point, and sometimes all at once. Such is the life of a Christian, living through these in-between days of "already and not yet."

Do not be alarmed by the mixed meter! It is consistent verse to verse and is there to serve the text. Melodically, the harmony part is always the same no matter who sings it, making this an easy-to-learn piece, especially after the intensity of Holy Week and Easter. Allow the piece to end without hurry, painting the "already and not yet" of Christ's salvific mission through pacing and, at the last, an unresolved second-inversion chord.

The tune is named for one of my goddaughters, who was in my mind as I created this piece. She is an embodiment of wonder and awe, brings joy and love to everyone she meets, and is a role model for me in my faith.

—Orin Johnson

About the Composer

Orin Johnson is Director of Music Ministries at Sts. Joachim and Ann in suburban St. Charles, Missouri, near St. Louis. He has liturgical music published by GIA Publications and OCP, and holds degrees in music from Harvard University (BA) and Radford University (MA) and a degree in theology from Aquinas Institute (MA). He is also a published author on prayer and liturgy with Twenty-Third Publications and Liturgical Press. Originally from Tyler, Minnesota, Orin now lives in St. Louis with his wife Erin. In addition to Sts. Joachim and Ann parish, he is active with Youth Sing Praise and One Bread One Cup; works part-time at Chaminade College Prep and Congregation Shaare Emeth in Creve Coeur; and is Assistant Director of the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, as well as various musical and ministerial roles, locally and nationally. For more information, visit orinjohnson.com

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Expectantly $\text{♩} = 68$
C Instrument *mf* *espress.*

mf *espress.*

$A\flat$ $B\flat^{SUS4}$ $B\flat$ $D\flat^{ADD2}$ $A\flat^{ADD2/C}$ $D\flat^{ADD2}$ $A\flat^{ADD2/C}$

Verse 1

Part I *mf*

1. Gaz-ing far a-way in - to the sky, the Lord of life was lift-ed

$E\flat/B\flat$ $A\flat^{ADD2/C}$ $B\flat/D$ Fm

A part for C instrument is on page 11.

A guitar edition with capo chords and vocal harmony is available, G-10480G.

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high; and love so vast, a - ris - en in their sight, be -

Cm Gm Ab Cm Eb/Bb

11

came a ti - ny glint of light.

mf

Ab Bb|SUS4 Bb Db|ADD2 Ab|ADD2/C Db|ADD2 Ab|ADD2/C

14 Verse 2

2. E - ven that was lost to hu - man eyes. The cloud that raised him to the

mp

Part I mp

Part II mp

14 Verse 2

2. E - ven that was lost to hu - man eyes. The cloud that raised him to the

mp

Ab|ADD2/C Bb|D Fm

17

skies was tak - en from the earth and from their view, and

17

Cm Gm A \flat Cm E \flat /B \flat

21

mf *mp*

van-ished in a sea of blue.

21

A \flat B \flat SUS4 B \flat D \flat ADD2 A \flat ADD2/C D \flat ADD2 A \flat ADD2/C

mf

24 Verse 3

p

3. Si-lence dwelt with-in their rest-less souls; a prom-ise, all that they could

mel. p

24 Verse 3

p

E♭/B♭ *A♭ADD2/C* *B♭/D* *Fm*

27

p *mf* *mf* *mp*

hold: that he would clothe with pow-er from on high, and

mf *mp*

27

Cm *Gm* *A♭* *Cm* *E♭/B♭*