

The Beatitudes

for

SATB Choir, Handbell Choir and Organ

[or SATB Choir, Piano and Organ]

by

John Burge

Bells Used



About this composition...

The Beatitudes, for choir, handbells and organ, is a setting of the seven very familiar lines from the Gospel of Mark that begin, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs in the Kingdom of Heaven.” The work was commissioned by Reverend Elizabeth Richards for the Gaetz Memorial United Church Music Ministry in Red Deer, Alberta upon her retirement from the church in 2015. John Burge has known “Liz” for many years and was glad to have this opportunity to find a musical interpretation of these lines. The importance of the words required a text setting that is audibly straight forward, often being heard in a dialogue arrangement between the female and male sections of the choir. The composition uses the bells to create an angelic-like aura around the words and with the addition of organ, builds to a triumphant climax at the end. It is also possible to perform this work by having the handbell parts played on the piano.

About the composer...

Dr. John Burge was born in Dryden, Ontario in 1961. He holds degrees in Composition and Theory from the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Since 1987 he has been teaching at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he is a full professor and has served as Director of the School of Music. In 2013 he was awarded a Queen's University Excellence in Research Prize for his work as a composer and in 2014 was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada in the Humanities and Arts Division. A passionate advocate of Canadian music, he was a member of the executive council of the Canadian League of Composers for fourteen years, serving as President from 1998-2006, and since 2009 has been appointed to the board of directors of the SOCAN Foundation.

John Burge has written a large body of vocal, chamber, and orchestral compositions. He is particularly well known though, for his choral music, which has been performed by such choirs as The Elmer Iseler Singers, The BBC Singers, The Amabile Youth Choir, The Toronto Children's Chorus and The St. Louis Symphony Children's Choir. Many of these choral works have been published by Boosey and Hawkes. His composition, *Angels' Voices*, for choir and orchestra, received the 2006 Outstanding New Choral Composition Award from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and was performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2005. His string orchestra work, *Flanders Fields' Reflections*, as recorded by Sinfonia Toronto on the Marquis Classics label, received the 2009 Juno Award for the best recording of a Canadian Classical Composition.

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-9)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the people of God.

Duration: Approximately 5 minutes

Commissioned by Reverend Elizabeth Richards in 2015
for the Gaetz Memorial United Church Music Ministry, Red Deer, Alberta.

The Beatitudes

[Matthew 5:3-9]

Moderato ♩ = 76

mp dolce

John Burge

Soprano

Alto

Handbell Choir

Organ

Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, —

Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, —

p [let ring]

Moderato ♩ = 76

8

S

A

Bells

Org.

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

[Sw.]

p

cresc.

— for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of heav - - - en,

— for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of heav - - - en,

14 *mp* *mf* **A**

S
the king - dom of heav - en. _____

A
the king - dom of heav - en. _____

T
8 *mp*
Bless - ed are those who

B
mp
Bless - ed are those who

Bells
mp *mf* *p*

Org
14 *mp* *p* **A**

21

S

A

T
8
mourn, — for they shall be com - fort - ed, be com - fort - ed.

B
mourn, — for they shall be com - fort - ed, — be com - fort - ed.

Bells

Org

B

S *mp*
Bless - ed are the meek, for

A *mp*
Bless - ed are the meek, for

T

B

Bells

p (sub.)

B

Org.

[Gt.] *mf* *p*

34

S they shall in - her - it the earth. Bless - ed are those who

A they shall in - her - it, in - her - it the earth. Bless - ed are those who

T Bless - ed are those who hun -

B Bless - ed are those who hun -

Bells

Org.

mf *mp* *mf*

mf *mp* *mf*

mf *fp* *mf*

mf *fp* *mf*

mf *dim.*

C

S
40
hun - ger and_ thirst for right - eous - ness, for right - eous -
A
hun - ger and thirst for right - eous - ness, for right - eous -
T
8 - - ger and_ thirst for right - eous - ness, for right - eous -
B
- - ger and_ thirst for right - eous - ness, for right - eous -

p *mp* *p*

Bells

40

p *mp*

C

Org.
40

p *cresc.*

D *a tempo*

45 *mf rit.* *mp* *f*

S
ness, for they shall be sat - is - fied, for they shall be

A
ness, for they shall be sat - is - fied, for they shall be

T
ness, for they shall be sat - is - fied, for they shall be

B
ness, for they shall be sat - is - fied, for they shall be

45 *p rit.* *mf* *mp* *a tempo f (sempre)*

Bells

D

45 *rit.* *f a tempo*

Org.

50

S
sat - is - fied, shall be sat - is - fied, sat - - - is -

A
sat - is - fied, shall be sat - is - fied, sat - - - is -

T
8 sat - is - fied, shall be sat - is - fied, sat - - - is -

B
sat - is - fied, shall be sat - is - fied, sat - - - is -

mf

50

Bells

dim.

50

Org.

dim.

57 *p* **E**

S
fied. _____

A
fied. _____

T
8
fied. _____

B
fied. _____

57 *p*

Bells

57 *p* **E**

Org

[Sw.] *p* *mp* *p*

64 *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

S
Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, — for they shall ob - tain —

A
Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, — for they shall ob - tain

T

B

Bells

Org

71 *p* *mp* *p* **F**

S
mer - cy, _____ ob-tain mer - - cy, ob-tain mer - cy. _____

A
mer - cy, _____ ob-tain mer - - cy, ob-tain mer - cy. _____

T
8 ob-tain mer - - cy, ob-tain mer - cy. _____

B
mf pesante
Bless - ed are the

71

Bells

71 **F** [Ch.] *mf*

Org.

[Ch.]

accel.

mf pesante

78

S

Bless - ed are the pure in heart, for they shall see

A

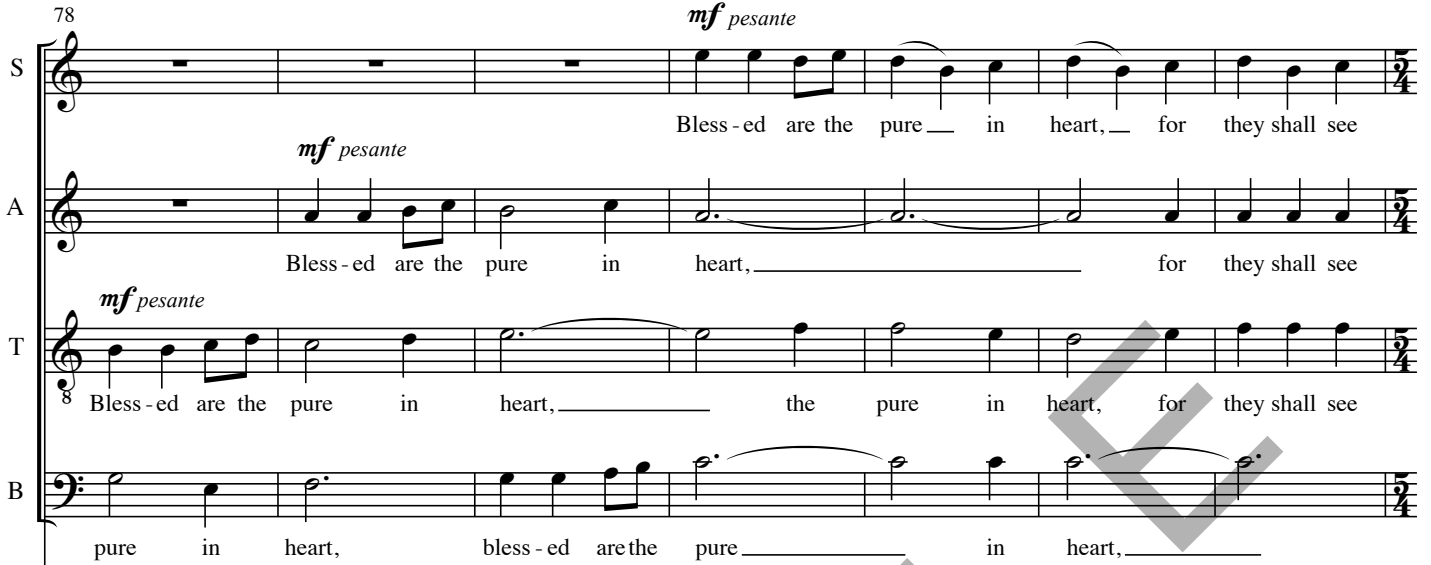
Bless - ed are the pure in heart, for they shall see

T

8 Bless - ed are the pure in heart, the pure in heart, for they shall see

B


pure in heart, bless - ed are the pure in heart,



78

Bells

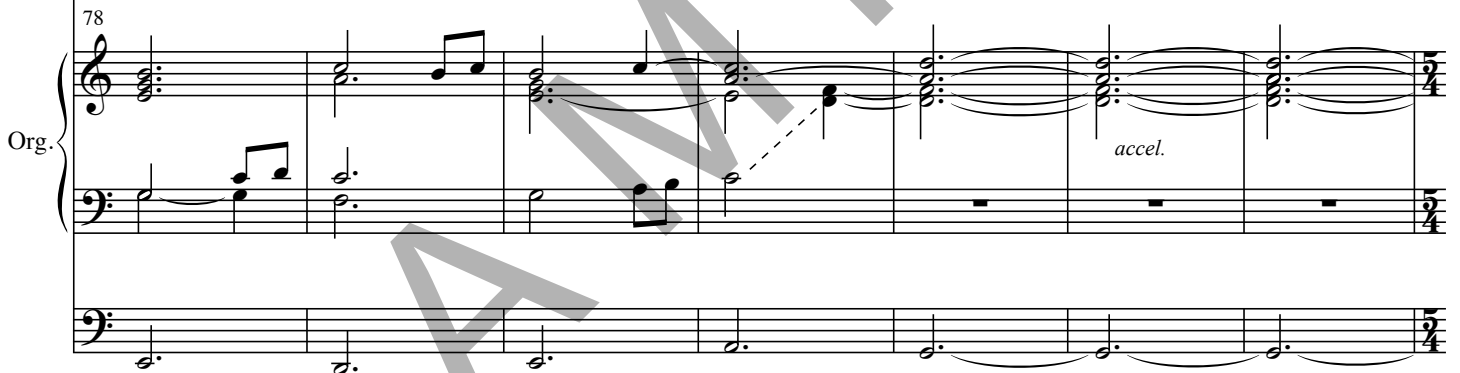
accel.



78

Org.

accel.



G **Faster** ♩ = 92

S
God, — see God, — see God, — for they — shall see

A
God, — see God, — see God, — for they — shall see

T
God, — see God, — see God, — for they — shall see

B
for they shall see God, — see God, — for they shall see

f *sfp* *f*

Bells

f

G **Faster** ♩ = 92

Org.

[Gt.] *f*

rit.

Tempo primo ♩ = 76

H

S
A
T
B

God, for they shall see God, see God.
 God, for they shall see God, see God.
 God, for they shall see God, see God.
 God, for they shall see God, see God.

rit. *più f*

Bells

rit. *mp* *più f* *f*

Tempo primo ♩ = 76

H

Org.

rit. [Add]

95 *f*

S Bless - ed are the peace - mak - ers, — for they shall be called the

A Bless - ed are the peace - mak - ers, — for they shall be called the

T Bless - ed are the peace - mak - ers, — for they shall be called the

B Bless - ed are the peace - mak - ers, — for they shall be called the

Bells *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Org. 95

100 **I** *sfp*

S
peo - ple of God, for they shall be called the peo - - -

A
peo - ple of God, for they shall be called the peo - - -

T
peo - ple of God, for they shall be called the peo - - -

B
peo - ple of God, for they shall be called the peo - - -

mf *f*

100

Bells
f *p* (sub.)

I

100

Org.
f sempre

105 *f* *rit.* *ff*

S
ple of God, of God.

A
ple of God, of God.

T
8 ple of God, of God.

B
ple of God, of God.

105 *f* *più f rit.* *ff*

Bells

105 *rit.* *ff*

Org.