

MÅRTEN JANSSON

The Choirmaster's Burial

SSATBB



Bärenreiter Kassel · Basel · London · New York · Praha  
BA 7413



*The Choirmaster's Burial*  
(Thomas Hardy 1840–1928)

He often would ask us  
That, when he died,  
After playing so many  
To their last rest,  
If out of us any  
Should here abide,  
And it would not task us  
We would with our lutes  
Play over him  
By his grave-brim  
The psalm he liked best –  
The one whose sense suits  
“Mount Ephraim” –  
And perhaps we should seem  
To him, in Death's dream,  
Like the Seraphim.

As soon as I knew  
That his spirit was gone  
I thought this his due,  
And spoke, thereupon.  
“I think”, said the vicar,  
“A read service quicker  
Than viols out-of-doors  
In these frosts and hoars.  
That old-fashioned way  
Requires a fine day,  
And it seems to me  
It had better not be.”

Hence, that afternoon,  
Though never knew he  
That his wish could not be,  
To get through it faster  
They buried the master  
Without any tune.

But 'twas said that, when  
At the dead of next night  
The vicar looked out,  
There struck on his ken  
Thronged roundabout,  
Where the frost was graying  
The headstoned grass,  
A band all in white  
Like the saints in church-glass,  
Singing and playing  
The ancient stave  
By the choirmaster's grave.

Such the tenor man told  
When he had grown old.

Texts from Missa di Requiem

In paradisum deducant te  
angeli,  
in tuo adventu suscipiant te  
martyres  
et perducant te in civitatem  
sanctam Ierusalem.

Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,  
æternam habeas requiem.

Requiem æternam dona eis,  
Domine,  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Requiescant in pace.  
Amen.

*Texts from Missa di Requiem*

*May the angels lead you into  
paradise,  
upon your arrival, may the  
martyrs receive you  
and lead you to the holy city  
of Jerusalem*

*May the ranks of angels receive you  
may you have eternal rest.*

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord  
and let perpetual light shine upon  
them.*

*May they rest in peace.  
Amen.*

COMPOSER'S NOTES:

The composition is intended for SSATBB, but if you have enough singers you may use one or both Optional Women's choirs too – Optional Women's Choir A is more important.  
Please observe that the Women's Choirs A and B should sing the Women's Choir except on page 11–14.