

EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT
Arnesen

SATB divisi, unaccompanied

WW1579

EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT

SATB divisi



Music by
Kim André Arnesen

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About the Work

Even When He Is Silent was commissioned in 2011 by the St. Olaf festival in Trondheim, Norway. The assignment was to write a work in two separate versions – one for SATB choir and one for SSAA choir, unaccompanied.

The text was found written on a wall at a concentration camp after World War II. Imagining what that person went through makes the words so powerful. As I read them, it was a Credo – when everything is dark and difficult in life you might wonder where God is, or if God is there at all. This is about keeping faith in God, love, and hope. I think of the sun as a metaphor for hope.

Even without thinking of metaphors, the text has a deep meaning. Even if people take away your freedom, your friends, the people you love – they cannot take God away from you.

The SSAA version of *Even When He Is Silent* was premiered just a few days after the terrorist attacks in Oslo and Utøya. It was one of the works being performed at a Conversation in the Nidaros Cathedral with bishop Tor Singsaas and actor Liv Ullmann on July 30, 2011. It was premiered by the Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir and conductor Anita Brevik.

The SATB version was premiered on November 26, 2011, by the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir and conductor Bjørn Moe.

Text

*I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not.
I believe in God even when He is silent.*

About the Composer

Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980) grew up in Trondheim, Norway, and began his career at the music school at the age of six playing the piano. At age ten, he started singing in the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir. He was later educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim.

As a composer, he had his first performance in 1999 with the Boys' Choir. Since then, he has written music that has been performed by choirs all around the world. Arnesen is an elected member of the Norwegian Society of Composers. In 2010, his first large-scale work, *Magnificat*, was commissioned and premiered by the Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir. The premiere got overwhelming feedback and led to several new commissions. The *Magnificat* was released on CD in 2014 on the record label 2L. In 2011, Arnesen's choral piece *Even When He Is Silent* had its premiere during the St. Olav Festival (Olavsfestdagene) in Trondheim. The piece was commissioned by the festival, and since its premiere has been performed numerous times around the world.

In 2013, *Even When He Is Silent* and *Cradle Hymn* were released on CD, DVD, and Blu-ray on the "Christmas in Norway" special with the St. Olaf Choir and Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir. The show aired on television in the United States and Norway. *Cradle Hymn* was the best-seller among Santa Barbara Music Publishing's Christmas music in 2014.

In April 2014, Arnesen's *Requiem* was premiered by the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir, and the work had its US premiere in April 2015 in West Virginia. The Denver-based choral ensemble Kantorei and their Artistic Director, Joel Rinsema, have invited Arnesen to be Composer-in-Residence for their 2015-2016 season.

For more information, visit kimarnesen.com.

Duration: Approx. 5:30

Commissioned by the St. Olaf Festival, Trondheim, Norway, 2011

Even When He Is Silent

SATB divisi*

Anonymous 20th c.

KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN (b. 1980)

With hope (♩=ca. 54)

pp

Soprano
I be - lieve in the sun, I be - lieve in the

Alto
I be - lieve in the sun, I be - lieve in the

Tenor
I be - lieve in the sun, I be - lieve in the

Bass
I be - lieve in the sun, I be - lieve in the

4

p *mp*

sun e - ven when it's not shin - ing,

p *mp*

sun e - ven when it's not shin - ing,

p *mp*

sun e - ven when it's not shin - ing,

p *mp*

sun e - ven when it's not shin - ing,

*Also available in SSAA (WW1580).

7 *mf*

e - ven when it's not shin - ing, not shin - ing, not

mf

e - ven when it's not shin - ing, shin - ing,

mf

e - ven when it's not shin - ing, shin - ing,

mf

e - ven when it's not shin - ing, shin - ing,

10 *f* *poco rit.* *p* *A tempo*

shin - - - ing, I be - lieve in the

shin - - - ing, I be - lieve in the

shin - - - ing,

shin - - - ing,

13

sun, ___ I be -

sun, ___

I be - lieve in the sun, ___

I be - lieve in the sun, ___

16

lieve in the sun, I be - lieve in the sun. I be -

in the sun, in the sun.

in the sun, in the sun.

in the sun, in the sun.

20

lieve, I be - lieve, I be - lieve, I be -

I, I be - lieve, I be -

I be - lieve, I be - lieve, I be -

I be - lieve, I be - lieve, I be -

23

lieve in love, I be - lieve in

lieve in love, I be - lieve in

lieve in love, I be - lieve in

lieve in love, I be - lieve in

26

meno mosso

love, in love, love, I be - lieve in love, love, love, I be - lieve, in love, love,

30 *A tempo*

I be - lieve in love, I be - lieve in love, I be - lieve in love, I be - lieve in love,

33

mp *mf* *cresc.*

I be - lieve in love, in love, in

mp *mf* *cresc.*

I be - lieve in love, in love, in

mf *cresc.*

love, I be - lieve in love, I be - lieve in

mf *cresc.*

love, I be - lieve in love, I be - lieve in

36

ff

love, in love, e - ven when I, e - ven when

ff

love, in love, e - ven when I, e - ven when

ff

love, I be - lieve in love, e - ven when I, e - ven when

ff

love, I be - lieve in love, e - ven when I, e - ven when

39 *poco rit.*

I, when I, when I, e - ven when I

I, when I, when I, e - ven when I

I, when I, when I, e - ven when I, I

I, e - ven when I, I

42 *meno mosso* *rit.* *pp* //

feel it not, when I feel it not.

feel it not, when I feel it not.

feel it not, feel it not.

feel it not, feel it not.

A tempo

46 *p*

I be - lieve in God, in

I be - lieve in God, in

I be - lieve in God, in

I be - lieve in God, in

49

God, e - ven when He is

God, e - ven when He is

God, e - ven when He is

God, e - ven when He is

52

si - lent, is - si - lent, I be -

si - - - lent, I be - lieve, I be -

si - - - lent, I be - lieve, be -

si - - - lent, I be - lieve, be -

55

lieve I be - lieve in God,

lieve I be - lieve in God,

lieve, I be - lieve in God,

lieve, I be - lieve in God,

58

mp He is si - lent, *p* He is si - lent

mp when He is si - lent, *p* He is si - lent,

mp when He is si - lent, *p* when He is si - lent,

mp when He is si - lent, *p* when He is si - lent,

62

pp He is - si - lent, *rit.* when He is si - lent. *ppp*

pp He is si - lent, when He is si - lent. *ppp*

pp when He is si - lent, when He is si - lent. *ppp*

pp when He is si - lent, when He is si - lent. *ppp*