
LIFE'S BUT A WALKING SHADOW

for TTBB chorus a cappella

EKRH0004

*Winner of the 2017 Lloyd Carr-Harris Composers Competition
Premiered February 25th 2017 by the Canadian Men's Chorus
Greg Rainville, artistic director - Toronto, ON, Canada*

words excerpted from *MACBETH* by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

music by

E.K.R. HAMMELL



ekrhammell.com

original text

MACBETH

(Act V, Scene V)

She should have died hereafter;
 There would have been time for such a word.
 – Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
 To the last syllable of recorded time;
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
 Signifying nothing.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
 (1564-1616)

about the piece

DURATION: 5 mins

PROGRAM NOTES:

On the theme of Shakespeare-based texts (called for during the 2017 Lloyd Carr-Harris Composers Competition), this piece draws its lyrics from the pivotal moment in *Macbeth* immediately following the titular character's realization of his wife's passing. The music attempts to highlight the despair in Macbeth's words as he hopelessly tries to grasp the meaning of life. From sorrowful, aching passages finally emerges a dark nothingness into which the voices recede, illustrated by eerie humming.

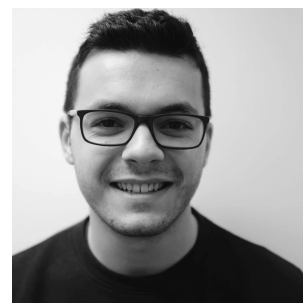
about the composer

E.K.R. Hammell (Evan) is a Canadian composer, arranger, & music editor driven by the pursuit of unstoppable forward momentum. A recipient of the Lloyd Carr-Harris Composition prize, his original music and arrangements have been performed by the Canadian Men's Chorus; Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra; provincial & state honour band ensembles in Saskatchewan, Minnesota, & Washington; PEI Symphony Orchestra; That Choir; Sirens; Charlottetown Festival Orchestra; Confederation Brass; Central Bucks West Choir; and the University of Toronto Wind Ensemble, to name just a few.

As a professional sheet music engraver & score editor he has prepared scores for countless performers, conductors, artists, and musicians, such as: the artistic director of the largest Bollywood festival in Canada; acclaimed Canadian classical-contemporary composers Larysa Kuzmenko and Imant Raminsh; and leading Canadian musical theatre MD Bob Foster, including a new edition of the conductor/vocal book for a Guinness World Record-breaking musical.

Evan is currently based in Toronto, having received a Bachelor of Music Composition from the University of Toronto in 2017. Aside from devising pretentiously abbreviated stage names, his other talents mainly involve playing bass trombone and being impressively bad at cooking.

Evan's music is currently available through Santa Barbara Music Publishing, J.W. Pepper, and his own website at ekrhammell.com.



(b. 1993)

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Grave, achingly
with rubato ♩ = 66

TENOR 1
TENOR 2
BASS 1
BASS 2

mp *mf* *mp*

Out, out, brief can - dle! — Life's but a walk - ing sha - dow, a poor_ play - er — That

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

6

T1
T2
B1
B2

rit. *mf* *mp* *mf* *slower*

struts and frets his hour_ up - on the stage And then is heard no more.

And then is heard no more.

And then is heard_ no more.

Pno.

rit. *slower*

A tempo primo

12

T1 *p* She _____ There _____ *mp* word. To - mor-row _____

T2 *p* She _____ There _____ *mp* word. To - mor-row _____

B1 *mp* She should have died here - af - ter There would have been a time for such a word. and to

B2 *p* She _____ There _____ *mp* word. and to

Pno. **A** tempo primo

19

T1 *f* and to - mor - row _____ *mf* creeps _____ in this pet - ty pace

T2 *f* and to - mor - row _____ *mf* creeps _____ in this pet - ty pace

B1 *f* mor-row, and to - mor - row _____ *mf* creeps _____ in this pet - ty pace

B2 *f* mor-row, and to - mor - row _____ *mf* creeps _____ in this pet - ty pace

Pno.