

RICH CAMPBELL

IF EVER THERE IS

for a cappella SATB choir



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John's Song

for John Taggart

If ever there is
if ever, if ever
there is, if ever there is.

If ever there is
other than war, other
than where war was, if ever there is.

If ever there is
no war, no more war, no other than us
where war was, where it was.

No more war, dear brother,
no more, no more war
if ever there is.

-- Robert Creeley

*Text: "John's Song" by Robert Creeley, from
The Collected Poems of Robert Creeley: 1975-2005
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"If Ever There Is" is a setting of "John's Song," by American poet Robert Creeley (1926-2005). The poem has a dedication to the poet John Taggart; the style of wordplay and repetition here can also be found in Taggart's poetry. I hear it as a prayer for peace. In 1967 Creeley signed a "Writers and Editors War Tax Protest," an ad in which over 500 vowed to protest the Vietnam War by refusing to pay a 10% war tax. "If Ever There Is," is entirely derived from the opening melody, made up of seconds and thirds; these intervals are almost exclusively used as the work unfolds. In the first half of the piece, the choir works together, sounding an insistent plea. In the second half, the parts move more independently. We move from minor to major as the voices dream of a time when we can experience life without war.

The composer would like to express his gratitude to Vocalessence, Philip Brunelle and Francisco Núñez for their input and support in the development this work during the Essentially Choral program.

If Ever There Is

for a cappella SATB choir

ROBERT CREELEY

RICH CAMPBELL

With wishful determination; strong downbeat

$\text{♩} = 140$ *mp*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal only)

S

A

T

B

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2
11

S *mf*
 ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

A *mf*
 ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

T *mf*
 8 ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

B *mf*
 If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

11

16

S
 ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

A
 ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

T
 8 ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

B
 ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

16

20

S
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

A
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

T
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

B
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

24

S
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

A
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

T
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

B
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

4
28

S
ev - er there is _____ no war, no more *f*

A
ev - er there is _____ no war, no more *f*

T
8 ev - er there is _____ no war, no more *f*

B
ev - er there is _____ no war, no more *f*

33

S
war, _____ no oth - er than us _____ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

A
war, _____ no oth - er than us _____ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

T
8 war, _____ no oth - er than us _____ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

B
war, _____ no oth - er than us _____ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

38 *p* *f*

S was. If ev - er there is no war,

A was. If ev - er there is no war,

T 8 was. If ev - er there is no war,

B was. If ev - er there is no war,

38 *p* *f*

43 *mf*

S no more war, no oth - er than us where

A no more war, no oth - er than us where

T 8 no more war, no oth - er than us where

B no more war, no oth - er than us where

43 *mf*

6

47

mp *pp*

S war was, where it was. No more

A war was, where it was. No more

T war was, where it was. No more

B war was, where it was. No more

47

mp *pp*

54

meno mosso *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

S war, No more war, No

A war, No more war, No

T war, No more war, No

B war, No more war, No

54

meno mosso *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

61 *f* *ff* *mf*

S more war, dear broth - er, No more war,

A more war, dear broth - er, No more war,

T more war, dear broth - er, No more war,

B more war, dear broth - er, no more war,

61 *f* *ff* *mf*

Gently *mp*

68 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

S no more no more war

A no more no more war

T no more war,

B no more war

68 *mp*

8 *a tempo*
74 ♩ = 140

pp like a soft drumbeat

S no more, no more war

A *pp* like a soft drumbeat
no more, no more war

T *pp*
no more

B

74 *a tempo*
♩ = 140
pp

80 *mf*

S no more, no more war no oth - er than

A no more, no more war no more, no more war

T war no more war

B *pp*
no more war

80

86

S us _____ where war was, _____

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T no more war _____ no more

B no more war _____ no more

92

S where it was. _____ no oth - er than

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T war _____ no more war _____

B war _____ no more war _____

p

p

p

98

S us _____ where war was, _____

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T no more war _____ no more

B no more war _____ no more

98

104 *mf* *cresc.*

S no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war

A *mf* no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war *cresc.*

T *mf* no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war *cresc.*

B *mf* no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war *cresc.*

104 *mf* *cresc.*

110

f *rit.* *p*

S no more no more war no _____ No more war, _____

A no more, no more war no _____ No more war, _____

T no more no more war no _____ No more war, _____

B no more no more war no _____ No more war, _____

110

f *rit.* *p*

Slower $\text{♩} = 110$ *mp*

118

pp *mp* *pp* *rit.*

S No more war, where war was, where it was. No more war,

A No more war, No more war,

T No more war, where war was, where it was. No more war,

B No more war, No more war,

118 $\text{♩} = 110$ Slower *pp* *rit.*

12
126 $\text{♩} = 140$
a tempo

floating
mp

S
where war was, where it

A
f
dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

T
f
dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

B
f
no more war No

126 $\text{♩} = 140$
a tempo

131

S
was. No more war, where war was,

A
er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

T
er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

B
more war, No

131

136

S where it was, where war was, where it

A dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

T dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

B no more war No

136

141

S was. No more war, where war was,

A er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

T er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

B more war, No more

141

14
146

S *mp* No more war, *rit. p* no

A *mp* where it was No more war, *p* If ev - er

T *mp* where it was No more war, *p* no

B *mp* war No more war, *p* no

146

152

S *pp* no more war

A *pp* there is no more war

T *pp* no more war

B *pp* no more war

152