

Richard St. Clair

The Clear Vision

For Men's Chorus, a capella, TTBB

(1990-1995)

On the Poem by
John Greenleaf Whittier

(Duration ca. 9 minutes)

THE CLEAR VISION.

By John Greenleaf Whittier (Feb., 1868)

I did but dream. I never knew
What charms our sternest season wore.
Was never yet the sky so blue,
Was never earth so white before.
Till now I never saw the glow
Of sunset on yon hills of snow,
And never learned the bough's designs
Of beauty in its leafless lines.

Did ever such a morning break
As that my eastern windows see?
Did ever such a moonlight take
Weird photographs of shrub and tree?
Rang ever bells so wild and fleet
The music of the winter street?
Was ever yet a sound by half
So merry as you school-boy's laugh?

O Earth! with gladness overfraught,
No added charm thy face hath found;
Within my heart the change is wrought,
My footsteps make enchanted ground.
From couch of pain and curtained room
Forth to thy light and air I come,
To find in all that meets my eyes
The freshness of a glad surprise.

Fair seem these winter days, and soon
Shall blow the warm west-winds of spring,
To set the unbound rills in tune
And hither urge the bluebird's wing.
The vales shall laugh in flowers, the woods
Grow misty green with leafing buds,
And violets and wind-flowers sway
Against the throbbing heart of May.

Break forth, my lips, in praise, and own
The wiser love severely kind;
Since, richer for its chastening grown,
I see, whereas I once was blind.
The world, O Father! hath not wronged
With loss the life by Thee prolonged;
But still, with every added year,
More beautiful Thy works appear!

As Thou hast made thy world without,
Make Thou more fair my world within;
Shine through its lingering clouds of doubt;
Rebuke its haunting shapes of sin;
Fill, brief or long, my granted span
Of life with love to thee and man;
Strike when thou wilt the hour of rest,
But let my last days be my best!

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

The Clear Vision

John Greenleaf Whittier

for Men's Chorus, a Capella (TTBB)

Richard St. Clair

Op. 64 (1990/1995)

Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$

Tenor 1
I did but dream. I ne-ver knew
what charms our stern-est sea-son wore. Was ne-ver yet the sky so blue, son wore.

Tenor 2
I did but dream. I ne-ver knew
what charms our stern-est sea-son wore. Was ne-ver yet the sky so blue, son wore.

Bass 1
I did but dream. I ne-ver knew
what charms our stern-est sea-son wore. Was ne-ver yet the sky so blue, son wore.

Bass 2
I did but dream. I ne-ver knew
what charms our stern-est sea-son wore. Was ne-ver yet the sky so blue, son wore.

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10

T. 1 *f* Till now I nev - er saw the

T. 2 *f* Till now I nev - er saw the

B. 1 *mf* was nev - er earth so white be - fore. *f* Till now I nev - er saw the

B. 2 *mf* Was nev er earth so white be - fore. *f* Till now I nev - er saw the

12

T. 1 glow of sun - set on yon hills of snow,

T. 2 glow of sun - set on yon hills of snow

B. 1 glow of sun - set on yon hills of snow, and nev - er

B. 2 glow of sun - set on yon hills of snow, and nev - er

14

T. 1 and nev - er learned the bough's de - signs of beau - ty in its leaf - less lines.

T. 2 and nev - er learned the bough's de - signs of beau - ty in its leaf - less lines.

B. 1 learned the bough's de - signs of beau - ty in its leaf - less lines, its leaf - less lines,

B. 2 learned the bough's de - signs of beau - ty in its leaf - less lines, its leaf - less lines,

17 *f*

T. 1 Did ev - er such a morn - ing break as that my

T. 2 Did ev - er such a morn - ing break as that my

B. 1 its leaf - less lines. Did ev - er such a morn - ing break as that my

B. 2 its leaf - less lines. Did ev - er such a morn - ing break as that my

21 *mp*

T. 1 east - ern win - dows see? Did ev - - er such a moon - light take weird pho - to -

T. 2 east - ern win - dows see? Did ev - - er such a moon - light take

B. 1 east - ern win - dows see? Did ev - er such a moon - light take

B. 2 east - ern win - dows see? Did ev - er such a moon - light take weird pho - to -

25 *f*

T. 1 graphs of shrub and tree, and tree? Rang ev - er

T. 2 weird pho - tographs of shrub and tree, of shrub and tree? Rang ev - er

B. 1 weird pho - tographs of shrub and tree, of shrub and tree? Rang ev - er

B. 2 graphs of shrub and tree, and tree? Rang ev - er

28 *mf*

T. 1 bells so wild and fleet the mu - sic of the win - ter

T. 2 bells so wild and fleet the mu - sic of the win - ter

B. 1 bells so wild and fleet the mu - sic of the win - ter

B. 2 bells so wild and fleet the mu - sic of the win - ter

31 *p* growing, accelerating

T. 1 street? Was ev - er yet a sound by half so mer - ry as yon

T. 2 street? Was ev - er yet a sound by half so mer - ry as yon

B. 1 street? Was ev - er yet a sound by half so mer - ry as yon

B. 2 street? Was ev - er yet a sound by half so mer - ry as yon

33 *f* Ritenuto, slower

T. 1 school - boy's laugh? 0

T. 2 school - boy's laugh? 0

B. 1 school - boy's laugh? 0

B. 2 school - boy's laugh? 0

f Ritenuto, slower (as if laughing) *ff*

35 *mf* *f* *mf*

T. 1 Earth! with glad-ness ov-er - fraught, no add - ed charm thy face hath

T. 2 Earth! with glad-ness ov-er - fraught, no add-ed charm thy face hath

B. 1 Earth! with glad-ness ov-er - fraught, no add - ed charm thy face hath

B. 2 Earth! with glad-ness ov-er - fraught, no add - ed charm thy face hath

38 *mp* *mf*

T. 1 found; with in my heart the change is wrought, my

T. 2 found; with in my heart the change is wrought, my

B. 1 found; *mf* with - in my heart the change is wrought, my footsteps make en -

B. 2 found; *mf* with - in my heart the change is wrought, my footsteps make en -

40 *f*

T. 1 footsteps make en-chant - - - ed ground. *f* From couch of

T. 2 footsteps make en-chant - - - ed ground. *f* From couch of

B. 1 chant ed ground. From couch of pain

B. 2 chant - - - ed ground. From couch of pain

42

T. 1 pain and curt-ained room forth to thy light and air I come, to

T. 2 pain and curt-ained room forth to thy light and air I come, to

B. 1 and curt - ained room forth to thy light and air I come, to

B. 2 and curt - ained room forth to thy light and air I come, to

44

T. 1 find in all that meets my eyes the freshness of a glad sur - prise. *sfz p*

T. 2 find in all that meets my eyes the freshness of a glad sur - prise. *sfz p*

B. 1 find in all that meets my eyes the freshness of a glad sur - prise. *sfz p*

B. 2 find in all that meets my eyes the freshness of a glad - sur - prise. *sfz p*

47

T. 1 *mf* Fairseemthesewin - ter days, and *ff* soon shall blow the warm west - winds of

T. 2 *mf* Fairseemthesewin - ter days, and *ff* soon shall blow the warm west - winds of

B. 1 *mf* Fairseemthesewin - ter days, and *ff* soon shall blow the warm west - winds of

B. 2 *mf* Fairseemthesewin - ter days, and *ff* soon shall blow the warm west - winds of

50

T. 1
spring to set the un-bound rills

T. 2
spring to set the un-bound rills

B. 1
spring to set the un-bound rills in

B. 2
spring to set the un-bound rills in tune, to

54

T. 1
in tune, to set the un-bound rills in tune, the un

T. 2
in tune, to set the unbound, to set the un-bound rills, the un

B. 1
tune, to set the un-bound rills in tune, to set the un

B. 2
set the unbound rills in tune, to set the un -

58

T. 1
bound rills in tune, and hith - er urge the blue - bird's wing.

T. 2
bound rills in tune, and hith - er urge the bluebird's wing.

B. 1
bound rills in tune, The vales shall

B. 2
bound rills in tune, The vales shall

62

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

laugh in flow-ers, the woods, the woods grow mis - ty green with

laugh in flow-ers, the woods, the woods grow mis - ty green with

65

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

p leaf - - - *f* - - - ing buds, and *mp* vi - o - lets *espressivo*

p leaf - - - *f* - - - ing buds, and *mp* vi - o - lets *espressivo*

p leaf - - - *f* - - - ing buds, and *mp* vi - o - lets *espressivo*

p leaf - - - *f* - - - ing buds, and *mp* vi - o - lets *espressivo*

68

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

and wind-flow - ers sway, sway, sway, sway,

and wind-flow - ers sway, sway, sway, sway,

and wind-flow - ers sway, sway, sway,

and - wind-flow - ers sway, sway, sway,

72

T. 1 and vi - o - lets and wind - flow - ers sway a - gainst,

T. 2 and vi - o - lets and wind - flow - ers sway a - gainst,

B. 1 sway, and vi - o - lets and wind - flow - ers sway, a -

B. 2 sway, and vi - o - lets and wind - flow - ers sway, a -

76

T. 1 a - gainst the throb - - - - - bing heart of

T. 2 a - gainst the throb - - - - - bing heart of

B. 1 gainst the throb - - - - - bing heart of

B. 2 gainst the throb - - - - - bing heart of

79

T. 1 *mf* May, the throb - bing heart of *ff* May.

T. 2 *mf* May, the throb - bing heart of *ff* May.

B. 1 *mf* May, the throb - bing heart of *ff* May.

B. 2 *mf* May, the throb - bing heart of *ff* May.

82

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

f

Break forth, my lips, in praise, and own the wis - er

85

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

love se - vere - ly kind; since, rich - er for its chast - - -

f

Break forth, my lips, in praise, and

88

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

en-ing grown, I see, where - as, where -

own the wis - er love se - vere - ly kind; since, rich - er

91

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

as I once was blind, I see where - as I once was

for its chast-en - ing grown, I see where - as I once was

f Break forth, my lips, in praise, and own

94

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

blind, I see, where - as I once was blind. Break forth, my

blind, I see, where - as I once was blind since, rich - er

the wis - er love se - vere - ly kind; since, rich - er

97

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

lips, in praise, and own the wis - er love se - vere - ly

lips, in praise, and own the wis - er love se -

for its chast - - - - - en - ing grown, I

for its chast - - - - - en - ing grown, I

100

T. 1
kind, since, rich - er for its chast - en-ing grown,

T. 2
vere-ly, se - vere - ly se - vere-ly, se - vere - ly kind; The

B. 1
see, where - - - as I once was blind. The world, O

B. 2
see, where as, where - as I once was blind.

ff

103

T. 1
The world, O Fa - - ther! The world, O

T. 2
world, O Fa - - - - - ther! The world, O Fa - ther! hath

B. 1
Fa - ther, O Fa - - ther!

B. 2
The world, O Fa - ther!

ff *f* *f* *f*

106

T. 1
Fa - ther! hath not wronged with loss the life by thee, by

T. 2
not wronged with loss the life, the life by thee pro -

B. 1

B. 2

the

109

T. 1
thee pro - longed, by thee pro - longed; the world, O Fa-ther hath

T. 2
longed, pro - longed, by thee pro - longed; the world, O Fa-ther hath

B. 1
the world, O Fa - ther! hath not wronged with loss the

B. 2
world, O Fa - ther! hath not wronged with loss the life by

112

T. 1
not wronged with loss the life by thee pro - longed; the

T. 2
not wronged with loss the life by thee pro - longed;

B. 1
life by thee pro - longed, by thee pro - longed, by thee pro -

B. 2
thee - pro - longed, by thee - pro - longed, by thee - - - pro-longed,

115

T. 1
world, O Fa - ther! hath not wronged with loss the life by

T. 2
the world, O Fa-ther, hath

B. 1
longed, pro-longed; the world, O Fa - ther hath not wronged with

B. 2
by thee pro-longed;

118 *ritard.* *mf*

T. 1 thee pro - longed, with loss the life by thee pro - longed; *mf*

T. 2 not wronged with loss the life by thee pro - longed; *mf*

B. 1 loss the life by thee pro - longed; *mf*

B. 2 *ritard.* *mf*

121 *Animato* *f*

T. 1 But still, with ev - ery add - ed year,

T. 2 But still, with ev - ery add - ed year,

B. 1 But still, with ev - ery add - ed year,

B. 2 But still, with ev - ery add - ed year,

123

T. 1 more beau - ti - ful thy works ap - pear, thy works ap -

T. 2 more beau - ti - ful thy works ap - pear, thy works ap - pear, thy

B. 1 more beau - ti - ful thy works ap - pear, thy works ap - pear, thy works ap -

B. 2 more - beau - ti - ful thy works ap - pear, thy works ap - pear, thy works ap -

125

T. 1 pear! *mp* **Andante** *mf* As thou As

T. 2 works ap - pear! *mp* *mf* As thou As

B. 1 pear! *mp* *mf* As

B. 2 pear! *mp* *mf* As

129

T. 1 made thy world with - out,

T. 2 made thy world with - out,

B. 1 thou hast made thy world with - - - out,

B. 2 thou hast made thy wpr;d - with - - - out,

132 *mf*

T. 1 make thou more fair, make thou more fair my

T. 2 make thou more fair, make thou more fair my

B. 1 *mf* make thou more fair, make thou more fair my

B. 2 *mf* make thou more fair, make thou more fair my

134

T. 1 *mp* *mf* *f*
world with - in; shine through its ling - - - - ering clouds of

T. 2 *mp* *mf* *f*
world with - in; shine through its ling - - - - ering clouds of

B. 1 *mp* *f*
world with - in; shine through its ling - ering clouds of

B. 2 *mp* *f*
world - with - in; shine through its ling - ering clouds of

136

T. 1
doubt; re - buke its haunt - ing shapes of

T. 2
doubt; re - buke its haunt - ing shapes of

B. 1
doubt; re - buke its haunt - ing shapes of

B. 2
doubt; re - buke its haunt - ing shapes of

138

T. 1 *ff* *f*
sin; fill, brief or long, my

T. 2 *ff* *f*
sin; fill, brief or long, my grant - ed span

B. 1 *ff* *f*
sin; fill, brief or long, my grant - ed span

B. 2 *ff* *f*
sin; fill, brief or long, my

142

T. 1 *mp* *sfz mp*

T. 2 *mp* *sfz mp*

B. 1 *mp* *sfz mp*

B. 2 *mp* *sfz mp*

grant-ed span of life with love to thee and man; strike when thou

of life with love to thee and man; strike when thou

of life with love to thee and man; strike when thou

grant-ed span of live with love to the and man; strike when thou

146

T. 1 *mf* *mp* *p*

T. 2 *mf* *mp* *p*

B. 1 *mf* *mp* *p*

B. 2 *mf* *mp* *p*

wilt the hour of rest, the hour of

wilt the hour of rest the hour of rest,

wilt the hour of rest, the hour of rest,

wilt the hour of rest, the hour of rest,

151

T. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

T. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

B. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

B. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

rest, the hour of rest, but let, but let my last days

the hour of rest, but let, but let my last days

the hour of rest, but let, but let my last days

the rest, hour of rest, but let, but let my last days

156

T. 1
8 be my best,

T. 2
8 be my best,

B. 1
be my best,

B. 2
be my best but

f

3

3

161

T. 1
8 but let my last days be my best,

T. 2
8 but let my last days be my best,

B. 1
but let my last days be my best,

B. 2
but let my last days be my best,

mf

f

mp

mf

f

mp

mf

f

mp

166

T. 1
8 my best,

T. 2
8 my best,

B. 1
my best,

B. 2
my best,

mf

mf

mf

mf

171 *mp* *p*

T. 1 *my* *best,* *my*

T. 2 *my* *best,* *my*

B. 1 *my* *best,* *my*

B. 2 *my* *best,* *my*

176 *ppp*

T. 1 *best.*

T. 2 *best.*

B. 1 *best.*

B. 2 *best.*

176 *ppp*

176 *ppp*