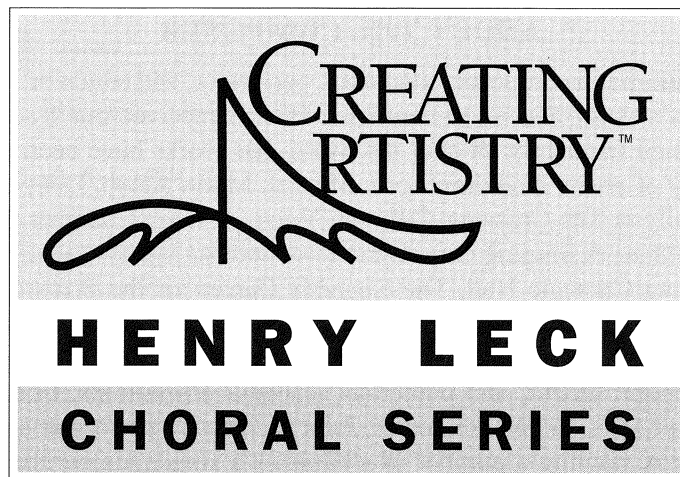


# Benediction

**Traditional Irish Text, alt.**

*Music by*

**John Conahan**



## PERFORMANCE NOTES

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft on your fields.  
And in case we should happen to meet again –  
Until the day when we meet again, may this world that surrounds us  
Keep you warm, keep you safe in her care –  
Until we meet again.  
Yes, until we meet again.

This text has always been close to my heart and Irish heritage. When I decided to modify the text from some of the more familiar incarnations, my hope was to make the closing lines a little more akin to the earlier ones about sun and rain – referencing the earth, community, and environment directly around the listener. I also hoped to close with a more directly personal moment, alluding to the fact that there will be a reunion one day. And until that moment occurs, may the energies around us keep us warm and safe, protecting the people and places in our lives.

– *John Conahan*

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**John Conahan** is a composer, conductor, performer, and educator. As a composer, John's choral and instrumental works have received much acclaim and are performed frequently all over the world. His works have been premiered by an array of artists including Lorin Maazel, Marin Alsop, Denyce Graves, Donald Nally & The Crossing, Deborah Voigt, Antioch Chamber Ensemble, Jeffrey Brillhart & Singing City, Lyric Fest, and Sir James Galway – at venues including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Lincoln Center. John is frequently featured as a guest conductor and visiting clinician for a number of ensembles, including state music education festivals, choral unions, and numerous academic institutions. In addition to his life as a composer and conductor, John is an active performer and recording artist, maintaining a number of albums as a singer/songwriter. You can listen to John's works on YouTube and iTunes.

Dedicated to the magnificent singers of the Wissahickon Camerata

# Benediction

For SATB a cappella

Duration: ca. 2:00

Traditional Irish Text, alt.

Music by  
**JOHN CONAHAN**

Gently (♩ = ca. 54)  
*mp*

Soprano  
May the road rise up to meet you. May the

Alto  
May the road rise up to meet you. May the

Tenor  
May the road rise up to meet you. May the

Bass  
May the road rise up to meet you. May the

Piano  
Gently (♩ = ca. 54)  
*mp (for rehearsal only)*



wind be al-ways at your back. May the sun shine warm up -

wind be al-ways at your back. May the sun shine warm up -

wind be al-ways at your back. May the sun shine warm up -

wind be al-ways at your back. May the sun shine warm up -

3

on your face, the rain fall soft on your field. And in

on your face, the rain fall soft on your field. And in

on your face, rain fall soft on your field. And in

on your face, rain fall soft on your field.

6

case we should hap-pen to meet a-gain, un - til the day when we

case we should hap-pen to meet a-gain, un - til the day when we

case we should hap-pen to meet a-gain, un - til the day when we

*mp*

un - til the day when we

9

meet a - gain, may this world that sur -

meet a - gain, may this world that sur -

meet a - gain, may this world that sur -

meet a - gain, may this world that sur -

*no breath*

*no breath*

*no breath*

*no breath*

13

rounds us, may this world that sur - rounds us keep you

rounds us, may this world that sur - rounds us keep you

rounds us, may this world that sur - rounds us keep you

rounds us, may this world that sur - rounds us keep you

14

warm, keep you safe in her care, un -

warm, keep you safe in her care, un -

warm, keep you safe in her care, un -

warm, keep you safe in her care, un -

17

18

Broadly

til we meet a - gain, a - gain, yes, un -

til we meet a - gain, a - gain, yes, un -

til we meet a - gain, a - gain, yes, un -

til we meet a - gain, a - gain, yes, un -

Broadly

20

Solo  
un - til we meet

till we meet a - gain.

till we meet a - gain.

till we meet a - gain.

till we meet a - gain.

23