

Rain Come Down

words and music by
Shawn Kirchner

With tenderness ♩ = 80

Piano

The piano introduction consists of two systems of music. The first system is marked 'p' and 'con pedale'. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass clef accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note D2. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

9 SSA unison

The vocal introduction is marked 'p' and 'con pedale'. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment is the same as in the piano introduction.

Come, rain, ___ come down, ___ come, rain, ___ come down, ___

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A note from the composer about the piece

Rain Come Down "came down" during a drive home to Chicago in the rain the day after the Columbine High School shooting in April of 1999. I identified very personally with the shock that everyone involved was feeling because the previous spring my mother had been murdered by a disturbed young man. At first I thought of *Rain Come Down* as a song for those directly involved in the Columbine tragedy, but I later realized it was also my own song, and a song for all of us. In 2002, it won Top Honors in the University of Oregon's "Waging Peace Through Singing" choral composition contest. The choral version of the piece was originally published for SATB; following the request of several choirs, this SSA version was created.

Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,
Heaven's tears of mercy, come a-runnin' down.

Say no words, it is too soon, say no words out loud.
But wrap your quiet arms around, hide us in your cloud.

Come wash away this grief and pain,
and let all hearts be clean.
And bring the fairest flow'rs
to meet the sorrows we have seen.

A little lower than the angels we were born to be,
Yet which of all the creatures knows this misery?

Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,
Heaven's tears of mercy, come a-runnin' down.

Heav-en's tears of mer - cy, come a - run - nin' - down.

17 Solo *mp*

Say no words, it is too soon, say no words out loud.

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But wrap your qui - et arms a - round, hide us in your cloud.

About the composer

Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970) is an active composer, performer, and conductor. He is a professional chorister with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and has sung in Chicago with the Oriana Singers, Chicago Choral Artists, and the Rockefeller Chapel Choir. His accomplishments as a pianist have included work with the Lyric Opera's Center for American Artists. He has served as Director of Choral Activities at the University of La Verne, and currently is Minister of Music/Composer-in-Residence at the La Verne (CA) Church of the Brethren. He has a special interest in American and international folk music, and performs widely with his folk group, Kindling, with whom he has made several recordings. Visit www.sbmp.com to see the complete scores of additional pieces by Shawn Kirchner.

25 Chorus *mp*

S
A

mp Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,
mp Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,

S
A

Heav-en's tears of mer-cy, come a-run-nin'-down,
 Heav-en's tears of mer-cy, come a-run-nin'-down.

33 Solo *mf*

mf * Come wash a-way this grief and pain, and let all hearts be clean.

* Original text: "Come wash away this awful stain, and let this place be clean.
 And bring the fairest flow'rs to meet the evil we have seen."

And bring the fair - est flow'rs to__ meet the sor-rows we have_ seen.

41 Chorus *f espr.*

Come, rain, __ come down, __ come, rain, __ come down, __

Come, rain, __ come down, __ come, rain, __ come down, __

f espr.

Heav-en's tears of mer - cy, come a-run - nin' _ down.

Heav-en's tears of mer - cy, come a-run - nin' down.

49

p dolce espr.

cresc. poco a poco

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57

Soloists
mp

A lit-tle low-er than the an - gels we were born to be,

Chorus
pp

pp

mp

mf

Yet which of all the crea - tures knows this mis - er - y?

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65

f espr. Come, rain, come down, Heav - en's -

Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,

f espr. Come, rain, come down, come, rain, come down,

© protection

73

p *rall.* Heav-en's tears of mer-cy, *rit.* *pp* come a-run-nin' down.

pp *rall.* *rit.* come a-run-nin' down.

pp *rall.* *rit.* come a-run-nin' down.

p *rall.* *pp* *rit.*