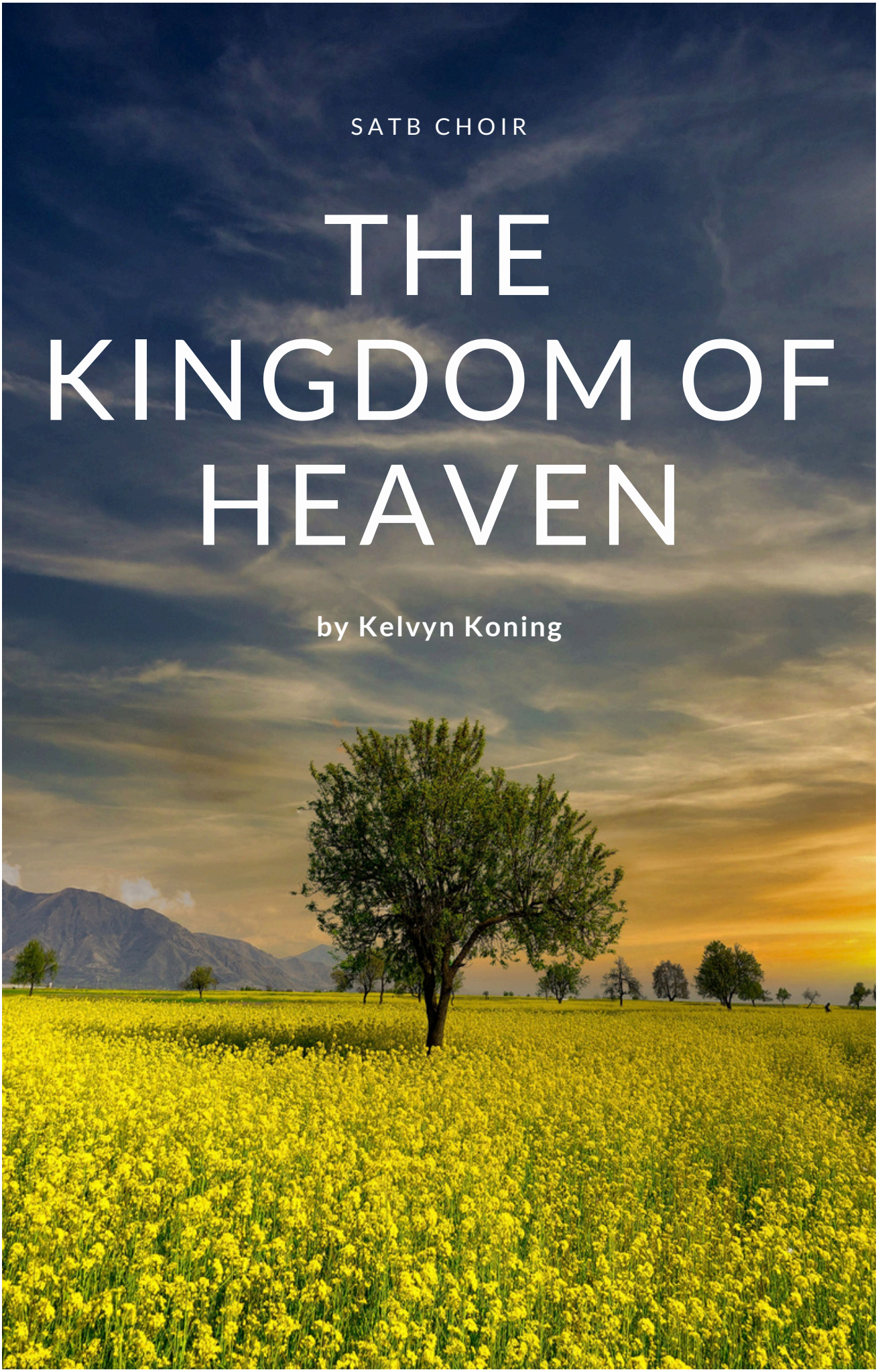
SATB CHOIR

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

by Kelvyn Koning



The Kingdom of Heaven

About the piece:

This piece references the various sections of the book of Matthew where Jesus discusses the kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 16, Jesus dubs Simon the name Peter and tells him he'll be the rock on which he builds the church. He then goes on to say "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." It feels like a pretty big responsibility and I wonder if that authority has trickled down onto the modern church's shoulders. If so, what are we doing with those keys? Are we locking people out or inviting people in? Are we binding uniformity and comfort or binding together in courageous, expansive love? Are we loosing pride and superiority or compassion and curiosity? Do we seek an exclusive club or are we ready to fling those gates wide and include anyone who wants to come in, accepting them as they are in the fullness of their authentic self-expression? God has given us agency to be their hands and feet on earth - we have the power and responsibility to be good by doing good.

Text:

Repent! Repent! Repent,
For the kingdom of heaven is near.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the ones who are persecuted because of righteousness,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of heaven is like sowing good seeds
Which get surrounded by the weeds but last until the end.
The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed;
The smallest faith can grow to the largest tree.
The kingdom of heaven is like some yeast mixed into flour
And permeating all through the dough.
The kingdom of heaven is like a hidden pearl
That's worth more than all I thought I'd know.

We have the keys to the kingdom,
So whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven
And whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

(No pressure!)
So humble yourself,
Be like the little child that plays with everyone
And fling those gates wide!

Tell me, why would you wanna
Lock up the doors
To the kingdom of heaven?
So open the doors to everyone!

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
And blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who's merciful,
Expecting us to also show forgiveness.
The kingdom of heaven is like a generous landowner
Who pays us all the same no matter when we come.
The kingdom of heaven is like a king
Who flings wide the door, inviting us all in if we will sit.
The kingdom of heaven is like ten women,
Only half of whom were ready with lamps lit.

Faith is not about exclusivity.
Hope is rooting for all humanity.
Love does not seek superiority.
Open the doors!

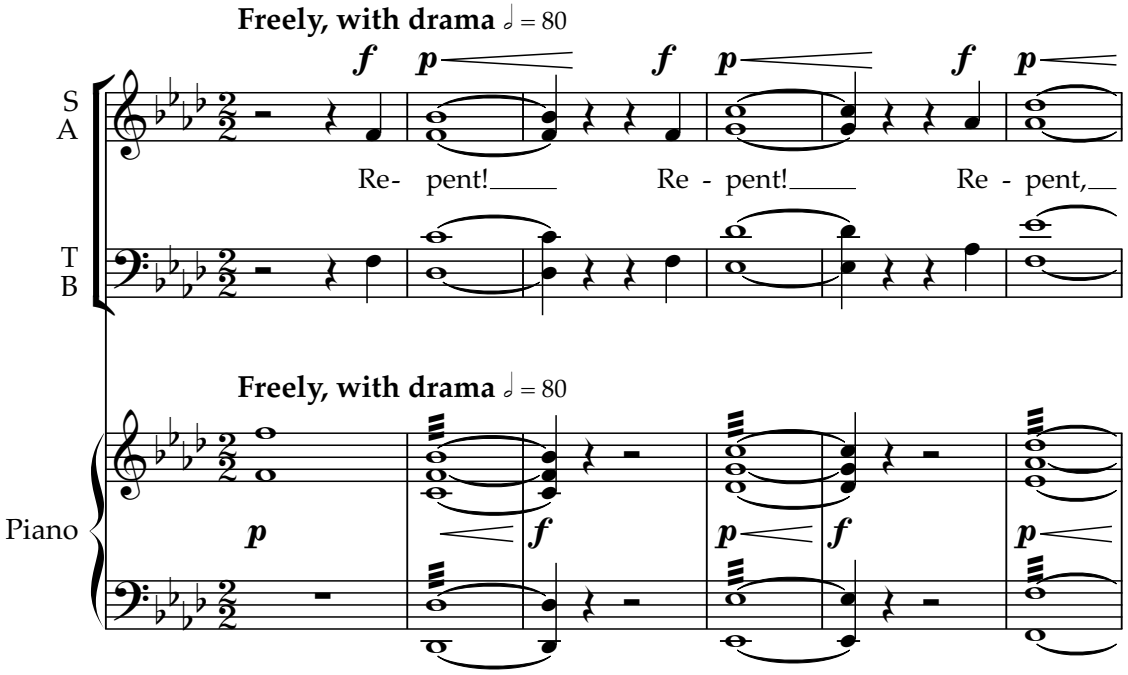
Fling those gates wide!
Open the doors to everyone!
Let me in!

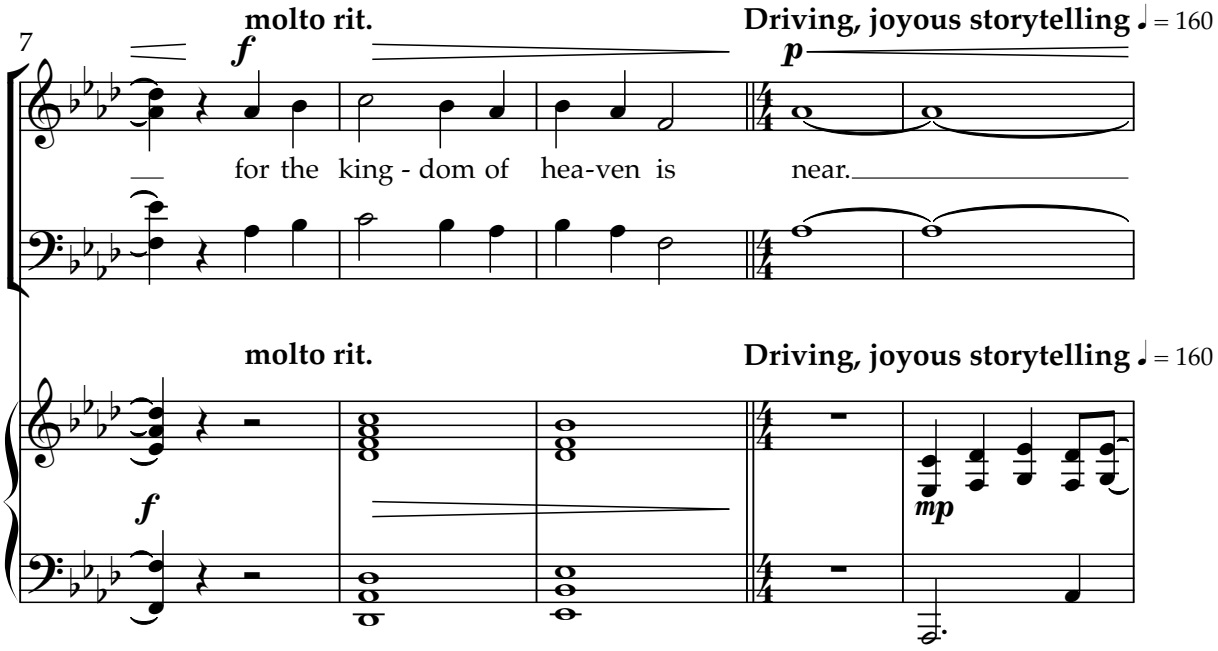
Commissioned by and dedicated to Sean Ivory and the Calvin Alumni Choir

The Kingdom of Heaven

for SATB Voices and Piano

Selections from Matthew, adapted **Kelvyn Koning (b. 1994)**





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We have the keys to the king - dom, so what - ev-er you bind on earth
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will be bound in hea ven and what - ev - er you loose on earth
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will be loosed in hea - ven. (No pres- sure!)
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So hum-ble your-self, be like the lit - tle child that plays with