

# The Wild Rose

SATB Choir with Piano + Cello

Music by  
Matthew J Olson

Text by  
Wendell Berry

## The Composition

Shortly after I became engaged, I began looking for a poem to set to music as a surprise for my wife on our wedding day. I sought words that expressed my love for her, but equally as important, words that captured the amazing gravity – both the joys and the concerns – of committing to one human being forever. Wendell Berry's masterful poem "The Wild Rose" struck me as so true to the thoughts and emotions I felt as I neared our ceremony, especially the notion that our loved ones are not to be taken for granted, but instead, recommitted to each and every new day.

## The Poem

### The Wild Rose

Sometimes hidden from me  
in daily custom and in trust,  
so that I live by you unaware  
as by the beating of my heart,

suddenly you flare in my sight,  
a wild rose blooming at the edge  
of thicket, grace and light  
where yesterday was only a shade,

and once more I am blessed, choosing  
again what I chose before.

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## The Composer

Matthew J Olson leads a diverse musical career as a conductor, composer, arranger, singer, and arts administrator.

He serves as Founding Artistic Director of Oratory Bach Ensemble, a professional period instrument orchestra and chamber choir specializing in the sacred works of J.S. Bach and composers who influenced him. He is also Assistant Director of The Singers – MN Choral Artists, Director of Choirs at Westwood Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities, and Instructor of Voice at North Hennepin Community College.

As a composer and arranger, Matthew's works are receiving growing performances by nationally acclaimed collegiate and community choirs. He was the winner of the 2013 Houghton College Choir Composition Prize for "In Paradisum" (Santa Barbara Music Publishing) – an honor that included performances by the ensemble throughout the Mid-Atlantic. His settings of poems by American poet Wendell Berry, including "The Peace of Wild Things" (Colla Voce, Jo-Michael Scheibe Series) and "The Want of Peace" (publication forthcoming) have received performances by Magnum Chorum, choirs of St. Olaf College and Michigan State University, among others. His interest in diverse musical styles extends into choral arrangements including "Creep" (Radiohead), Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald (Gordon Lightfoot), "Someone Like You" (Adele/Wilson), and many others.

He studied conducting at St. Olaf College, Michigan State University, Oregon Bach Festival, University of Minnesota, and the Canford Orchestral Conducting School, U.K.

You can learn more at [www.matthewjolson.com](http://www.matthewjolson.com)

for Maureen, on our wedding day

# The Wild Rose

Words by  
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♩ = 68 molto rubato

Violoncello

Piano

6 rit. . . . ♩ = 78

S. *p* Some times hid-den from me

A. *p* Some times hid-den from me

Vc.

Pno.

12 *mp*

S. in dai-ly cus-tom and trust, so that I

A. in dai-ly cus-tom and trust, so that I

Vc.

Pno.

# PERUSAL SCORE

2 18

S. live by you un - a - ware as by the beat-ing of my heart,

A. live by you un - a - ware as by the beat-ing of my heart,

Vc.

Pno.

24

S. as by the beat-ing of my heart, sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, a

A. as by the beat-ing of my heart, sud-den-ly flare in my sight, a

T. sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, a

B. sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, a

Vc. pizz.

Pno.

*mp* = 92 *mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

33

S. wild rose bloom-ing at the edge of thick - et, sud-den - ly you flare in my sight, a rose

A. *mf* wild rose bloom-ing at the edge of thick - et, sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, a rose

T. *mf* wild rose bloom-ing at the edge of thick - et, sud-den - ly you flare in my sight, a rose

B. *mf* wild rose bloom-ing at the edge of thick - et, sud-den - ly you flare in my sight, a rose

Vc.

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

42

S. sud den-ly you flare in my sight, grace and light, *mp* *f* rit.

A. sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, grace and light, *mp* *f*

T. sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, grace and light, *mp* *f*

B. sud-den-ly you flare in my sight, grace and light, *mp* *f*

Vc. *Arco*

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

4 51  $\text{♩} = 72$  *mp*

S. grace and light *mp*

A. grace and light *mp*

T. grace and light *mp*

B. grace and light *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

59 **PERUSAL SCORE** *mp*

S. where yest-er-day was on-ly a shade, where ye-ster- day\_ was

A. *p* where yest-er-day was on-ly a shade, *mp* where ye-ster- day\_ was

T. *p* where yest-er-day was on-ly a shade, *mp* where ye-ster- day\_ was

B. *p* where yest-er-day was on-ly a shade, *mp* where ye-ster- day\_ was

Vc. *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mp*

66 *f* 5

S. on-ly a shade, and once more I am

A. on-ly a shade, and once more I am

T. on-ly a shade, and once more I am

B. on-ly a shade, and once more I am

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

PERUSAL SCORE

72 *mp*

S. blessed choos-ing a - gain what I chose,

A. blessed choos-ing a - gain what I chose,

T. blessed choos-ing a - gain what I chose,

B. blessed choos-ing a - gain what I chose,

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

PERUSAL SCORE

6 77 *mf* **PERUSAL SCORE** *rit.* **72**

S. choos-ing a gain what I chose, be - fore.

A. choos-ing a - gain what I chose, be - fore.

T. choos-ing a - gain what I chose, be - fore.

B. choos-ing a - gain what I chose, be - fore.

Vc. *mf*

Pno.

82 *rit.*

S.

A.

T.

B.

Vc. **PERUSAL SCORE**

Pno.