

May the Road Rise Up

For SATB choir
a cappella or with piano accompaniment

Mitchell Covington

In the summer of 2015, I traveled with 60 singers on a concert tour through Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Greece. *May the Road Rise Up* was composed for that tour and received its very first performances in the cities we visited, often in collaboration with local choirs.

We knew that the nations of the Balkan region had suffered long under soviet domination and during the decades of political upheaval that followed. The time we traveled was a season of monetary uncertainty for Greece and immediately preceded the Syrian refugee crisis that has led streams of refugees to pass through some of the very cities we visited. Much of what we experienced was difficult to witness. Much of it was transcendently beautiful and profoundly hopeful. We witnessed over and over again the power of music for healing, to voice sadness, and to lift us in celebration.

Despite the vast cultural differences, we enjoyed standing room audiences in every city. The music brought a palpable and deep emotional connection between the singers and their audiences. We ended each performance by joining hands and singing *May the Road Rise Up*.

May the Road Rise Up was designed to work well with keyboard accompaniment or *a cappella* because some of our performances took place in orthodox churches where instrumental accompaniment is traditionally not allowed.

May the Road Rise Up

For the Chancel Choir and the College & Young Adult Choir
of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, CA

Traditional Irish Blessing

Michell Covington (ASCAP)

$\text{♩} = 63$

Piano*

S *mp*
May the road rise up to meet you.

A *mp*
May the road rise up to meet you.

T *mp*
May the road rise up to meet you.

B *mp*
May the road rise up to meet you.

* This setting may be performed with or without piano accompaniment.

This composition is also available for SSA with optional piano accompaniment.
The SSA arrangement is compatible with the SATB arrangement.

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S May the wind be ev - er at your

A may the wind be ev - er at your,

T may the wind be ev - er at your

B May the wind be ev - er at your

7

poco rit. *a tempo*
sempre mp

S back; And may the sun shine warm up - on your

A at your back; may the sun shine warm up - on your

T back; may the sun shine warm up - on your

B back; And may the sun shine warm up - on your

poco rit. *a tempo*
sempre mp

10 *p*

S face; And the rains fall soft up - on your

A face; And the rains fall soft, fall

T face; and the rains fall soft, fall

B face; And the rains fal soft up - on your

12 *mf*

S fields, your fields; And 'till we meet a -

A soft up-on your fields: And 'till we meet a -

T soft up-on your fields; And 'till we meet a -

B fields, your fields; And 'till we meet a -

15

S gain, may God hold you — in the palm of his

A gain, God hold you — in the palm

T gain, God hold you in the palm

B gain, God hold you in the palm

15

17

S hand, — in the palm, in the palm, *mp*

A of his — hand, — in the palm, in the palm, — *mp*

T of his hand, — in the palm, in the palm, *mp*

B of his hand, in the palm, in the palm,

17

mp

20

S in the palm of his hand.

A in the palm of his hand.

T in the palm of his hand.

B in the palm of his hand.

*If singing without accompaniment,
omit measure 23.* *slower*

23

S 'Till we meet a gain.

A 'Till we meet a - gain.

T 'Till we meet a - gain.

B 'Till we meet a - gain.

*If singing without accompaniment,
omit measure 23.* *rit.*