

**RICH CAMPBELL**

# **IF EVER THERE IS**

*for a cappella SATB choir*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY  
NOT FOR SALE

## John's Song

*for John Taggart*

If ever there is  
if ever, if ever  
there is, if ever there is.

If ever there is  
other than war, other  
than where war was, if ever there is.

If ever there is  
no war, no more war, no other than us  
where war was, where it was.

No more war, dear brother,  
no more, no more war  
if ever there is.

*-- Robert Creeley*

*Text: "John's Song" by Robert Creeley, from  
The Collected Poems of Robert Creeley: 1975-2005  
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"If Ever There Is" is a setting of "John's Song," by American poet Robert Creeley (1926-2005). The poem has a dedication to the poet John Taggart; the style of wordplay and repetition here can also be found in Taggart's poetry. I hear it as a prayer for peace. In 1967 Creeley signed a "Writers and Editors War Tax Protest," an ad in which over 500 vowed to protest the Vietnam War by refusing to pay a 10% war tax. "If Ever There Is," is entirely derived from the opening melody, made up of seconds and thirds; these intervals are almost exclusively used as the work unfolds. In the first half of the piece, the choir works together, sounding an insistent plea. In the second half, the parts move more independently. We move from minor to major as the voices dream of a time when we can experience life without war.

*The composer would like to express his gratitude to Vocalessence, Philip Brunelle and Francisco Núñez for their input and support in the development this work during the Essentially Choral program.*

# If Ever There Is

for a cappella SATB choir

ROBERT CREELEY

RICH CAMPBELL

With wishful determination; strong downbeat

$\text{♩} = 140$  *mp*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal only)

If ev-er there is if ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If

If ev-er there is if ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If

$\text{♩} = 140$  *mp*

S

A

T

B

ev-er there is if ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if

ev-er there is if ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if

If ev-er there is if

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2  
11

S *mf*  
ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

A *mf*  
ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

T *mf*  
8 ev-er, if ev-er there is, if ev-er there is. If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

B *mf*  
If ev-er there is if ev-er, if

11

16

S  
ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

A  
ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

T  
8 ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

B  
ev - er there is, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is oth - er than war,

16

20

S  
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

A  
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

T  
 8 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

B  
 — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. If ev - er there is —

24

S  
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

A  
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

T  
 8 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

B  
 — oth - er than war, — oth - er than where war was, if ev - er there is. — If

4  
28

S  
ev - er there is \_\_\_\_\_ no war, no more *f*

A  
ev - er there is \_\_\_\_\_ no war, no more *f*

T  
8 ev - er there is \_\_\_\_\_ no war, no more *f*

B  
ev - er there is \_\_\_\_\_ no war, no more *f*

33

S  
war, \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er than us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

A  
war, \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er than us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

T  
8 war, \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er than us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

B  
war, \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er than us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, where it *mf* *mp*

38 *p* *f*

S was. If ev - er there is no war,

A was. If ev - er there is no war,

T 8 was. If ev - er there is no war,

B was. If ev - er there is no war,

38 *p* *f*

43 *mf*

S no more war, no oth - er than us where

A no more war, no oth - er than us where

T 8 no more war, no oth - er than us where

B no more war, no oth - er than us where

43 *mf*

6

47

*mp* *pp*

S war was, where it was. No more

A war was, where it was. No more

T war was, where it was. No more

B war was, where it was. No more

47

*mp* *pp*

54

*meno mosso* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

S war, No more war, No

A war, No more war, No

T war, No more war, No

B war, No more war, No

54

*meno mosso* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*



61 *f* *ff* *mf*

S more war, dear broth - er, No more war, \_\_\_\_\_

A more war, dear broth - er, No more war, \_\_\_\_\_

T more war, dear broth - er, No more war, \_\_\_\_\_

B more war, dear broth - er, no more war \_\_\_\_\_

61 *f* *ff* *mf*

Gently *mp*

68 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

S no more no more war \_\_\_\_\_

A no more no more war \_\_\_\_\_

T no more war, \_\_\_\_\_

B no more war \_\_\_\_\_

68 *mp*

8 *a tempo*  
74 ♩ = 140

*pp* like a soft drumbeat

S no more, no more war

A *pp* like a soft drumbeat  
no more, no more war

T *pp*  
no more

B

80 *mf*

S no more, no more war no oth - er than

A no more, no more war no more, no more war

T war \_\_\_\_\_ no more war \_\_\_\_\_

B *pp*  
no more war \_\_\_\_\_

80

86

S us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, \_\_\_\_\_

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T no more war \_\_\_\_\_ no more

B no more war \_\_\_\_\_ no more

92

S where it was. \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er than

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T war \_\_\_\_\_ no more war \_\_\_\_\_

B war \_\_\_\_\_ no more war \_\_\_\_\_

98

S us \_\_\_\_\_ where war was, \_\_\_\_\_

A no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T no more war \_\_\_\_\_ no more

B no more war \_\_\_\_\_ no more

98

104 *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

S no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war

A *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

no more, no more war no more, no more war no more, no more war

T *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

8 no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war

B *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

no more no more war no more no more war no more no more war

104 *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

110

*f* *rit.* *p*

S no more no more war no No more war,

A no more, no more war no No more war,

T no more no more war no No more war,

B no more no more war no No more war,

110

*f* *rit.* *p*

Slower  $\text{♩} = 110$  *mp*

118

*pp* *mp* *pp* *rit.*

S No more war, where war was, where it was. No more war,

A No more war, No more war,

T No more war, where war was, where it was. No more war,

B No more war, No more war,

118  $\text{♩} = 110$  Slower *pp* *rit.*

12  
126  $\text{♩} = 140$   
*a tempo*

*floating*  
*mp*

S  
where war was, where it

A  
*f*  
dear broth - er, no more war if ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

T  
*f*  
dear broth - er, no more war if ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

B  
*f* >  
no more war No

126  $\text{♩} = 140$   
*a tempo*

131

S  
was. No more war, where war was,

A  
er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

T  
er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

B  
> > >  
more war, No

131

136

S where it was, where war was, where it

A dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

T dear broth - er, no more war If ev - er there is oth - er than war, oth -

B no more war No

136

141

S was. No more war, where war was,

A er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

T er than where war was, no oth - er than us where war was, where it was.

B more war, No more

141

14  
146

S *mp* No more war, *p* no

A *mp* where it was No more war, *p* If ev - er

T *mp* where it was No more war, *p* no

B *mp* war No more war, *p* no

146

*mp* *p* *rit.*

152

S *pp* no more war

A *pp* there is no more war

T *pp* no more war

B *pp* no more war

152

*pp*