

## NOTE

*Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* stands at the top of Charles Wesley's career as a hymn-poet. His recasting of the story of Jacob's struggle with the angel in Genesis 32 takes 11 verses, only four of which are here used. The mood is wonderfully reflected in this stark shape-note tune. I first set it as movement VIII of the cantata *Melodious Accord* (1974, Catalog No. 3010); this arrangement adds women's voices and another verse.

—Alice Parker

## TEXT

Come, O Thou Traveler unknown,  
Whom still I hold but cannot see;  
My company before is gone,  
And I am left alone with Thee;  
With Thee all night I mean to stay,  
And wrestle till the break of day.

In vain Thou strugglest to get free;  
I never will unloose my hold;  
Art Thou the Man that died for me?  
The secret of Thy love unfold;  
Wrestling, I will not let Thee go,  
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know.

Yield to me now, for I am weak,  
But confident in self-despair;  
Speak to my heart, in blessings speak,  
Be conquered by my instant prayer;  
Speak, or Thou never hence shalt move,  
And tell me if Thy name be Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me,  
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee:  
Pure, universal Love Thou art;  
To me, to all Thy mercies move;  
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.

—Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

### **Alice Parker (b. 1925)**

For biographical information visit:  
[www.melodiousaccord.org/alice\\_parker](http://www.melodiousaccord.org/alice_parker)

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# Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

for Tenor Solo, SATB Chorus, and Keyboard

Charles Wesley

VERNON from *Harmonia Sacra*

arranged by Alice Parker

Slowly  $\text{♩} = 52$

A

Tenor Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

*mf firmly*

1. Come, O thou trav - el - er un-known, Whom

*mf firmly*

1. Come, O thou trav - el - er un-known, Whom

Slowly  $\text{♩} = 52$

A

Keyboard

*mp*

5

T

B

Kbd.

still I hold but can-not see; My com-pa-ny be - fore is - gone, And -

still I hold but can-not see; My com-pa-ny be - fore is - gone, And -

9

A *mp*  
With thee ————— I'll stay —

T *f*  
I am left a - lone with thee; With thee all night I mean to stay, And

B *f*  
I am left a - lone with thee; With thee all night I mean to stay, And

Kbd. *mf*

13

A — till day.

T wres-tle till the break of day.

B wres-tle till the break of day. *mf* 2. In

Kbd. *mp*

17 **B**

A

T

B

Kbd.

vain thou strug - glest\_ to get\_ free, I\_ nev - er will un - loose my\_ hold. Art

*mf*

Art

21

A

T

B

Kbd.

thou the man that died for\_ me? The\_ se - cret of thy love un - fold; Wres -

*mf*

Wres -

*f*

thou the man that died for\_ me? The\_ se - cret of thy love un - fold; Wres -

*f*

Wres -

25

A tling I will not let thee go un - til I know.

T tling, I will not let\_ thee\_ go, Till I thy Name, thy\_ na-ture know.

B tling, I will not let thee go, Till I thy Name, thy na-ture know.

Kbd.

29

S *mp* **C**  
3. Yield\_ to me now, for I am\_ weak, but\_ con - fi - dent in

A *mp*  
3. Yield\_ to me now, for I am\_ weak, but\_ con - fi - dent in

Kbd. *dim.* *mp* **C**

33

S self-des-pair; Speak — to my heart, in blessings speak, be con- quered by my

A self-des-pair; Speak — to my heart, in bless - ings — speak, be — con- quered by my

Kbd.

37

S in - stant prayer. *mf* Speak, — or thou nev - er hence shalt — move, and

A in - stant prayer. *mf* Speak, — or thou nev - er hence shalt move, and

T *mf* Speak, — or thou nev - er hence shalt move, and

B *mf* Speak, — or thou nev - er hence shalt move, and

Kbd. *mf*

T. Solo

4. Tis

S

tell me if thy name is Love!

A

tell me if thy name is Love!

T

tell me if thy name is Love?

B

tell me if thy name is Love?

Kbd.

T. Solo

D

Love! tis Love! Thou diedst for me, I hear thy whis-per in my heart. The

S

Tis Love,

T

Tis Love, Tis Love, Tis Love. The

B

Tis Love, Tis Love, Tis Love, The

Kbd.

D

p

48

T. Solo *mf* warmly  
 morn-ing breaks, the shad-ows flee; Pure love — thou art. To

S *mf* warmly  
 — tis Love. — To

A *mf* warmly  
 — — — — — To

T *mf* warmly  
 morn-ing breaks, the shad - ows flee; Pure u - ni-ver - sal love thou art. To

B *mf* warmly  
 morn-ing breaks, the shad - ows flee; Pure u - ni-ver - sal love thou art. To

Kbd. *mf*

52

T. Solo *p* (as an echo)  
 me, to all, thy mer - cies move, thy na-ture and thy Name is Love. To

S *p* (as an echo)  
 me, to all, thy mer - cies move, thy na-ture and thy Name is Love. To

A *p* (as an echo)  
 me to all, thy mer - cies move, thy na-ture and thy Name is Love. To

T *p* (as an echo)  
 me, to all, thy mer - cies move, thy na-ture and thy Name is Love. To

B *p* (as an echo)  
 me, to all, thy mer - cies move, thy na-ture and thy Name is Love. To

Kbd. *p*



56

T. Solo *p*  
Thy

T  
me, to all thy mer - cies \_ move, Thy na - ture and thy \_

B  
me, to all thy mer - cies move, Thy na - ture \_

Kbd.

59 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

T. Solo  
na - ture and thy \_ Name is Love.

S *pp*  
Thy Name is Love.

A *pp*  
Thy Name is Love.

T  
Name is Love.

B *div.*  
is Love.

Kbd. *poco rit.* *a tempo*