

Today Is Tomorrow

TT/BB

Bass/Alto Soloist

David Barton Harris

Today Is Tomorrow is a piece inspired by the moral transformation undergone by protagonist, Phil Conners in the film *Groundhog Day* (1993). Phil, a self-centered and arrogant weatherman, is supernaturally forced to relive the same day over and over. He experiences a range of responses to his limbo; frustration, depression, hedonism, manipulation, exploitation, and even suicide, which proves unsuccessful.

Finally, he thinks beyond himself. He starts seeing his eternal limbo as an opportunity to help others, and it is only through this perception that he is able to break his cycle.

The question became, "How long does Phil spend in Punxsutawney?" I had come into this experiment wondering, "If a person can live long enough—longer than a single lifetime—would that be enough for him to change?"

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The first note I remember came from a monk in Germany. He had discovered *Groundhog Day* as a perfect articulation of his Christian beliefs.

Another note came from a young couple who studied the Kabbalah, a Jewish mystic practice, who were convinced that I too must share this belief system.

Rabbis and ministers have sent me copies of major sermons they've delivered based on the movie's themes, and on at least one occasion a convention of Buddhists created an event around the movie, proclaiming it the best Buddhist movie ever....

To my absolute delight, people were enjoying the movie on its most profound level, and finding within the story a reflection of their own beliefs.

All these responses seemed to suggest a unifying idea embodied in the movie that transcends any one theology or philosophy and goes directly to a universal human experience.

- Danny Rubin, *How to Write Groundhog Day*

In *Today Is Tomorrow*, the architect of this supernatural repetition is presented as the piece's soloist, Robin, a reference to Robin Longfellow, also known as Puck, the benevolent trickster in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. In *Today Is Tomorrow*, Robin mischievously demonstrates that time is simply a measure of change and asks us to consider that the greatest act, the act we are made for, is charity.

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♩=100

a warm, unified Greek chorus

TENOR 1 *p*
We can - not live trapped in our - selves, We ex - ist _____ for one a - no - ther, _

TENOR 2 *p*
We can - not live trapped in our - selves, We ex - ist _____ for one a - no - ther, _

BARITONE *p*
We can - not live trapped in our - selves, We ex - ist _____ for one a - no - ther, _

BASS *mp*
We can - not live trapped in our - selves, We ex - ist _____ for one a - no - ther, _

♩=100

like the striking of a clock

PIANO *p*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

T.1
We are all made of God, Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, _____

T.2
We are all made of God, Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, _____

Br. *mf*
We are all made of God, Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion suff - ring through our mach - i - na - tions, _____

B.
We are all made of God, Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, _____

Pno.
Ped. * Ped. *

Robin, the benevolent trickster appears

boldly revealing their presence

13

ROBIN *mf* with love love

T.1 *mp* Save us from the dan-ger of our selves with love love *mf*

T.2 Save us from our - selves with love love *mf*

Br. us from our - selves with love we must love *mf* *f*

B. Save us from our - selves with love we must love *mf* *f*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

*Robin is almost impatient,
tone can be rude,
does not need to align
exactly with the chorus*

21

ROBIN *p* and the po-wer to for - give *f* Wake up!

T.1 *mp* and we must for - give *p* *f* Wake up!

T.2 *mp* and we must for - give *p* *f* Wake up!

Br. *mp* and we must for - give *p* *f* Wake up!

B. *mp* and we must for - give *p* *f* Wake up!

Pno. *f*

loving

rude

loving

rude

26

ROBIN *mp* It's a new day, *f* seize it! *mp* Or you'll be forced to re-live it! *f*

T.1 *mp* It's a new day, *f* seize it! *mp* Or you'll be forced to re-live it! *f*

T.2 *mp* It's a new day, *f* seize it! *mp* Or you'll be forced to re-live it! *f*

Br. *mp* It's a new day, *f* seize it! *mp* Or you'll be forced to re-live it! *f*

B. *mp* It's a new day, *f* seize it! *mp* Or you'll be forced to re-live it! *f*

Pno. *ffmp* *f*

simile...

30

ROBIN *mf* You get from it what you give it! *f* O - pen your heart and you'll see

T.1 *mp* You get from it what you give it! *f* O - pen your heart and you'll see

T.2 *mp* You get from it what you give it! *f* O - pen your heart and you'll see

Br. *mf* You get from it what you give it! *f* O - pen your heart and you'll see

B. *mp* You get from it what you give it! *f* O - pen your heart and you'll see

Pno. *ff* *mf*

explaining lovingly, patiently

34 *f*

ROBIN *how we are one, _____ What is char-i-ty _____ but the act we are born for?*

T.1 _____

T.2 _____

Br. *p* *live each day for one a - no - ther, what is char-i-ty _____ but the act we are born for?*

B. *p* *live each day for one a - no - ther, what is char-i-ty _____ but the act we are born for?*

Pno. *ff* *mf*

39 *poco rit.* *p* $\text{♩} = 90$

ROBIN _____

T.1 _____

T.2 _____

Br. *p* _____

B. *p* _____

Pno. *poco rit.* *mp* *as if transported in time*

revealing a cosmic secret
mp

43

ROBIN

Time is an ill - u - sion,

T.1

T.2

Br.

B.

Pno.

p

p

47

ROBIN

on - ly a mea - sure of how we have changed, des - pr'at - ly we need each - o - ther,

T.1

T.2

Br.

B.

Pno.

p

mf

p

p

mf

mf

p

mf

p

8 *warmly* 51 *A tempo* ♩=100

ROBIN
Come o - pen your heart al - low your soul to e - merge

T.1
heart O - pen your

T.2
heart al - low your soul to e - merge

Br.
change, o - pen your heart al - low your soul to e - merge

B.
change, o - pen your heart al - low your soul to e - merge

Pno.
mp *ff* *mf*

55 *mf* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

ROBIN
What is char-i-ty but the

T.1
heart How we are one how we are one, What is char-i-ty but the

T.2
show us we are one What is char-i-ty but the

Br.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, may we bask

B.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, may we bask

Pno.

ROBIN
 T.1
 T.2
 Br.
 B.
 Pno.

praise and the love of God
 praise and the love of God
 in the love of God
 in the love of God
 thus we are one
 thus we are one
 thus we are one
 thus we are one

mp
mp
mf

ROBIN
 T.1
 T.2
 Br.
 B.
 Pno.

one thus we are one thus we are ne-ver un-done
 thus we are one for e-ter-ni-ty thus we are one, ne-ver un-done
 love for e-ter-ni-ty will You hear our prayers will you lead us not in -
 love for-e-ter-ni-ty will You hear our prayers will you lead us not in -

mf
mp
p
mf

urgently

10

67

ROBIN

f
trapped in the cy - cle, the mill ma-king mi - se - ry____

T.1

mp
trapped and

T.2

urgently
mf
trapped in the cy - cle, the mill ma-king mi - se - ry____

Br.

mf *urgently*
to temp - ta - tion, trapped in the cy - cle, the mill ma-king mi - se - ry____

B.

mp
to temp - ta - tion, trapped and

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for measures 67-69.

heroically

70

ROBIN

bound by the pride and the greed and i - ni - qui - ty____ love in the high - est

T.1

bound

T.2

bound by the pride and the greed and i - ni - qui - ty,____

Br.

subito p *simply*
bound by the pride and the greed and i - ni - qui - ty,____ just give love and

B.

subito p *simply*
bound just give love and

Pno.

subito p *mp*
Piano accompaniment for measures 70-72.

ROBIN *mp* beau-ti-ful and un-bi-ased, *mf* and you will be free *p*

T.1 *mp* and you will be free *mf*

T.2 and you will be free *mp*

Br. pa-tience, and you will be free *p*

B. pa-tience, and you will be free *p*

Pno. *f*

ROBIN *joyful ff* Wake up! Wake up, *rit.* This is the day you are *fp* free! *fff*

T.1 *ff* Wake up! Wake up, *rit.* This is the day you are *fp* free! *fff*

T.2 *ff* Wake up! Wake up, *rit.* This is the day you are *fp* free! *fff*

Br. *ff* Wake up! Wake up, *rit.* This is the day you are *fp* free! *fff*

B. *ff* Wake up! Wake up, *rit.* This is the day you are *fp* free! *fff*

Pno. *ff* *rit.* *p* *fff*