

Commissioned by Opus Ensemble for the 2021-2022 Louisiana ACDA Conference  
Winner of the 2022 Cantus Composition Prize

# Time

For SATB a cappella

Duration: ca. 3:00

Words and Music by  
JENNIFER LUCY COOK

Nonrubato, metronomic ♩ = ca. 80

*p*

Soprano

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*p*

Alto

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*p*

Tenor

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*p*

Bass

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

Nonrubato, metronomic ♩ = ca. 80

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

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Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, in a min - ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass - ing

TIME — SATB

4

Time is an il - lu - sion, there's con - fu - sion when they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, there's con - fu - sion when they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, there's con - fu - sion when they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, there's con - fu - sion when they tell you now it's

5 *mp*

*mp* Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

*mp* Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

*mp* Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

*mp* Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

TIME — SATB

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time, three two one e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

Time, three two one e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

Time, three two one e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

Time, three two one e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

Time, three two one e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

TIME — SATB

8

*p* *mf*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh

*p* *mf*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh

*p* *mf*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh

*p* *mf*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh

9

*ALL VOICES*  
*tongue click.\**

*sub. p*

Time Nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ na na na na

*sub. p*

Time Nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ na na na na

*sub. p*

Time Nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ na na

*sub. p*

Time Nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ nn\_\_\_\_\_ na na

\* Tongue clicks are simultaneous with the pitches;  
it may be helpful to think of the consonant as “ng”

TIME — SATB

13 *mf*

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

Time, you can spend when you spend you're run - ning out of

14

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

Time, you can save but to save it takes some

TIME — SATB

15

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

Time, in a min - ute, you're in it, feel pass - ing

16

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

Time is an il - lu - sion, con - fu - sion, they tell you now it's

TIME — SATB

17

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

Time to get old - er, to work, time to waste, there's no

18

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

Time left to hold, time to tell him, while there's still

TIME — SATB



19

Time, three two e - lev - en two A - M, din - ner

Time, three two e - lev - en two A - M, din - ner

Time, three two e - lev - en two A - M, din - ner

Time, three two e - lev - en two A - M, din - ner

20

Time now to kill, said I will, still it flies oh

Time now to kill, said I will, still it flies oh

Time now to kill, said I will, still it flies oh

Time now to kill, said I will, still it flies oh

TIME — SATB

ALL VOICES - tongue click

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts include lyrics "Time Nn nn nn nn" and "Time Nn nn nn nn". The piano part consists of chords and single notes in the right and left hands.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts include lyrics "nn nn nn" and "nn nn nn". The piano part continues with chords and single notes.

TIME — SATB

SOP. only - tongue click

29 *dim.* x x x x x x x x x x

nn na Na na na na  
na na na na na

33 *f*

Time, you can when you you're run-ning out of save it take a lit - tle  
Time, you can when you you're run-ning out of save it take a lit - tle  
Time, you can when you you're run-ning out of save it take a lit - tle  
Time, you can when you you're run-ning out of save it take a lit - tle

TIME — SATB

35

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

Time min-ute can you feel pass-ing is an il - lu-sion they tell you

37

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

to get old - er work waste there's no hold her tell him feel there's

TIME — SATB

39

Time one thir - ty din - ner Time kill will still fly oh

Time one thir - ty din - ner Time kill will still fly oh

Time one thir - ty din - ner Time kill will still fly oh

Time one thir - ty din - ner Time kill will still fly oh

41

*ff* Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*ff* Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*ff* Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

*ff* Time, you can spend it, when you spend it then you're run - ning out of

TIME — SATB

42

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a lit - tle

43

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

Time, in a min-ute, when you're in it, can you feel the pass-ing time\_\_\_\_\_ they say

TIME — SATB

45 *p*

Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no

The musical score for measures 45-48 features a SATB choir and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand) all play the same melody. The lyrics are: "Time to get old - er, time to work and time to waste and there's no". The dynamics are marked *p* (piano).

46 *mp*

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still

The musical score for measures 49-52 features a SATB choir and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand) all play the same melody. The lyrics are: "Time left to hold her, time to tell him how you feel while there's still". The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

TIME — SATB

47 *mf*

Time, three two one, e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

*mf*

Time, three two one, e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

*mf*

8 Time, three two one, e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

*mf*

Time, three two one, e - lev - en thir - ty, two A - M, then din - ner

48 *f*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh fly fly fly on

*f*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh fly fly fly on

*f*

8 Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh fly fly fly on

*f*

Time now to kill, I said I will and still it flies and flies, oh fly fly fly on

TIME — SATB



ALL VOICES - tongue click

50

**ff**

*diminuendo poco a poco*

Time

Nn

nn

nn

nn

nn

Time

Nn

nn

nn

nn

nn

Time

Nn

nn

nn

nn

nn

Time

Nn

nn

nn

nn

nn

55

*perdendosi quasi al niente*

nn

nn

*perdendosi quasi al niente*

nn

nn

*perdendosi quasi al niente*

nn

nn

*perdendosi quasi al niente*

nn

nn

TIME — SATB

## NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER

Time, like money or borders between one country and another, is one of those funny human-made concepts that dictate our lives but are fundamentally meaningless if we didn't all agree to go along with it. And yet, we experience aging, the changing of seasons, and growth, undeniably. The line between time's reality and its invention is blurry, and there was no better way I could think of to depict that than by writing a repeating lyric that erodes as the piece unfolds. As lyrics disappear, phrases take on new meaning, like the way a 30th birthday differs from a fifth birthday, or how old memories can appear sharper than yesterday's. We lose time when we try to keep it, we spend time as we try to save it – and since it insists upon eluding us, we can only notice the fact that time has been winking at us all along. This wit, this relentlessness, and this freedom is the spirit behind Time, and this piece is my way of winking back.

— Jennifer

### TEXT

<i>You can spend it</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>When you spend it</i>	<i>To work and</i>
<i>Then you're running out of</i>	<i>Time to waste and there's no</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>You can save it</i>	<i>Left to hold her</i>
<i>But to save it is to take a little</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>To tell him how you feel</i>
<i>In a minute</i>	<i>While there's still</i>
<i>When you're in it</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>Can you feel the passing</i>	<i>Three two one, eleven thirty</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>Two AM, then dinner</i>
<i>Is an illusion</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>There's confusion</i>	<i>Now to kill</i>
<i>When they tell you now it's</i>	<i>I said I will, and still</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>It flies and flies, oh</i>
<i>To get older</i>	<i>Time</i>

**Jennifer Lucy Cook** (she/her) is a composer and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Jen specializes in music for the stage and screen, choral music, and pop songwriting. Recent choral commissions include Cantorum Chamber Choir, Choral Arts Ensemble in Minnesota, and the Utah Valley University Chamber Choir. She is the recipient of the Edwin Fissinger Composition Award, the Chorus Austin Composition Prize, and the Cantus Emerging Composer Award. She is an alumni of the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writer's Grove with Goodspeed Musicals, and her theater commissions include Full House Theatre Co., British Youth Musical Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Her musical recaps of the Bachelor recently went viral on TikTok. She earned a Master's degree in Musical Theater Writing from Goldsmiths University in London and a Bachelor's in Media Music from Brigham Young University.