

## **Grace Fell Like the Rain, Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory: Notes**

*Grace Fell Like the Rain* was commissioned for the Crescent City Choral Festival 2008 and premiered at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans's French Quarter in June of that year. The festival is sponsored by the New Orleans Children's Chorus, Cheryl Dupont, Artistic Director.

We have had a unique and close relationship with the New Orleans Children's Chorus since Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans in 2005. *Grace* reflects that fact fairly overtly.

The work is loosely inspired by the traditional spiritual, *Didn't it Rain*. The piece opens (through measure 50) with a recollection of the story of Noah's flood. At measure 57, the narrative shifts to reflect on the impact of Katrina. Measure 92 turns to the grass-roots relief efforts that followed. Measure 128 marks the beginning of a promise to *show up* whenever future events make such action necessary.

Performers should pay careful attention to spellings which reflect colloquial speech patterns. The ending T is purposely omitted from the word *didn't*. Every time. At measures 15 and 133, there is no final S on the word *keep*. Corresponding issues of regional dialect are handled similarly throughout the piece.

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July 18, 2008  
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