### Break of Day

Music by

#### MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA Words by

#### JOHN DONNE

SSA(A) Voices with Keyboard and Optional English Horn or Oboe



#### **About the Music**

This arrangement of *Break of Day* was written for the for the Sam Houston State University Women's Choir, Denise Eaton, conductor. It is an account of two lovers faced with parting and delves into questions of parting from a loved one. Legato vocal lines unfold to reveal a subtle interplay among the voices interwoven with the piano and obbligato line. The yearning refrain "Stay or else my joys will die" gives voice to the dichotomy of feelings of joy and pain associated closeness and separation from a loved one. Originally scored for SATB choir, piano, and English horn, the director may substitute an oboe if an English horn is not available. The instrumental part is included in the back of the score.

#### About the Poet

John Donne (1572–1631) was educated at Cambridge and Oxford and is noted as the foremost English metaphysical poet. His use of descriptive imagery and subtle wordplay often employs metaphors from a variety of disciplines both sacred and secular. During his life he served as a private secretary to the Keeper of the Great Seal, an Anglican Clergyman, and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. This text was set and published simultaneously by three of Donne's contemporaries: John Dowland, Orlando Gibbons and William Corkine.

#### **About the Composer**

Dr. Michael John Trotta is a composer, conductor, and clinician regularly accepting commissions and conducting engagements throughout the country. As an educator, he has held positions at the middle school, high school, and university levels. As a composer he is published with Colla Voce Inc., GIA Publications, Kjos Music Company, MorningStar, Alliance and Carl Fischer Publications. He completed his Doctorate of Music Arts in choral conducting at Louisiana State University. He holds a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) and a Master of Music (Choral Conducting) from Rowan University where he studied with Dr. Z. Randall Stroope. He served on the faculty of Oklahoma State University as the Associate Director of Choral Studies and Assistant Professor of Music Education. He is currently the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Virginia Wesleyan College. For more information, a full list of works, and recorded samples visit his website (www.mjtrotta.com).

#### **Break of Day**

for SSA(A) Voices\* with Keyboard and Optional Oboe or English Horn\*\*



- \* Also available for SATB Voices (CM9296).
- \*\* Parts for Optional Oboe and English Horn may be found on p. 14.

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\* "Hither" to this place.





#### Oboe

#### **Break of Day**

(English Horn 8ba) for SSA(A) Voices with Keyboard and Optional Oboe or English Horn

**JOHN DONNE** (1572–1631)

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA



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