

# Let Them Not Say

## for SSAATTBB choir

Words: Jane Hirshfield (1953 - ) | Music: Chris Hutchings (1979 - )

Let them not say: we did not see it.

We saw.

Let them not say: we did not hear it.

We heard.

Let them not say: they did not taste it.

We ate, we trembled.

Let them not say: it was not spoken, not written.

We spoke,

we witnessed with voices and hands.

Let them not say: they did nothing.

We did not-enough.

Let them say, as they must say something:

A kerosene beauty.

It burned.

Let them say we warmed ourselves by it,

read by its light, praised,

and it burned.

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Set to music as part of **#choirsforclimate** - [choirsforclimate.com](http://choirsforclimate.com) . Please use this piece to raise funds or awareness for environmental causes.

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# Let Them Not Say

Music: Chris Hutchings

Words: Jane Hirshfield

**Insistent and bitter**  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54$

*p*  $\text{3}$  *mp*

Soprano 1  
Let them not say: we did not see it, we did not see it. We saw, we saw.

Soprano 2

*p*  $\text{3}$  *mp*

Alto 1  
Let them not say: we did not see it, we did not see it. We saw, we saw.

Alto 2

*p* *mp*

Tenor 1  
Let them not say: we did not see it. We saw.

Tenor 2

*p* *mp*

Bass 1  
Let them not say: we did not see it. We saw.

Bass 2

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Let Them Not Say

10

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

Let them not say: we did not hear it. We heard, we heard, we heard.

Let them not say: we did not hear it, we did not hear it, we did not hear it. we heard.

Let them not say: we did not hear it, we did not hear it, we did not hear it. We heard.

Let them not say: we did not hear it. We heard, we heard.

Let them not say: we did not hear it. We heard, we heard.

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Let Them Not Say

19 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S 1 Let them not say: they did not taste it, they did not taste it, they did not taste it.

19 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S 2 Let them not say: they did not taste it, they did not taste it, they did not taste it.

19 *mp* *mf* *mp*

A 1 Let them not say: they did not taste it, they did not taste it, they did not taste it.

19 *mp* *mf* *mp*

A 2 Let them not say: they did not taste it, they did not taste it, they did not taste it.

19 *mp* *mf*

T 1 Let \_\_\_\_\_ them not say: they did not, \_\_\_\_\_ they did not

19 *mp* *mf*

T 2 Let \_\_\_\_\_ them not say: they did not, \_\_\_\_\_ they did not

19 *mp* *mf*

B 1 Let \_\_\_\_\_ them not say: they did not, \_\_\_\_\_ they did not

19 *mp* *mf*

B 2 Let \_\_\_\_\_ them not say: they did not, \_\_\_\_\_ they did not

24 *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *3*

S 1 We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it was not spo-ken,

S 2 We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it was not spo-ken,

A 1 We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it was not spo-ken,

A 2 We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it was not spo-ken,

T 1 *mp* *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *3*  
 8 taste it. We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it

T 2 *mp* *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *3*  
 8 taste it. We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it

B 1 *mp* *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *3*  
 8 taste it. We ate, we trem<sup>3</sup> - bled. Let them not say: it

B 2 *mp* *f* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *3*  
 8 taste it. We ate, we trem - bled. Let them not say: it

Let Them Not Say

6

29  
S 1 not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed with voi - ces and hands,

29  
S 2 not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed with voi - ces and hands,

29  
A 1 not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed with voi - ces and hands,

29  
A 2 not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed with voi - ces and hands,

29  
T 1 8 was not spo - ken, not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed, \_\_\_\_\_

29  
T 2 8 was not writ - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ we wit - nessed, \_\_\_\_\_

29  
B 1 was not spo - ken, \_\_\_\_\_ was not written. \_\_\_\_\_ We

29  
B 2 was not spo - ken, \_\_\_\_\_ was not written. \_\_\_\_\_ We

Let Them Not Say

*rit.*

Almost immobile  $\text{♩} = c. 45$

33

S 1 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

S 2 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

A 2 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

T 1 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

T 2 we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

B 1 spoke, we wit - nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

B 2 spoke, we wit - nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a choral piece titled "Let Them Not Say". The score is for eight voices: Soprano 1 & 2, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, and Bass 1 & 2. The music is written in treble clef for the upper voices and bass clef for the lower voices. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/2. The score begins at measure 33. The lyrics are: "we spoke, we wit-nessed. Let them not say: they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_". The music features dynamic markings of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano), with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. There are also performance instructions for "Almost immobile" and a tempo indication of "♩ = c. 45". The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and breath marks.

Let Them Not Say

8

38

S 1

they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ they did

S 2

they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ they did

A 1

they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did

A 2

they did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did

T 1

8

\_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did

T 2

8

\_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did

B 1

38

\_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did

B 2

38

\_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did no - thing, \_\_\_\_\_ did



43 *f accel.* *mp* *f*  
S 1 no - thing. we did not - e - nough.

43 *f* *mp*  
S 2 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

43 *f* *mp*  
A 1 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

43 *f* *mp* *f*  
A 2 no - thing. we did not - e - nough.

43 *f* *mp* *f*  
T 1 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

43 *f* *mp*  
T 2 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

43 *f* *mp* *f*  
B 1 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

43 *f* *mp*  
B 2 no - thing. We did not - e - nough,

Let Them Not Say

\* - hold as long as possible while avoiding staggered breathing

Angrily  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54$

Transfixed  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 42$

48 *f* *rit.* *mf* *mf* *p*

S 1 Let them say, as they must say some thing: a ke-ro-sene beau-ty, \*

S 2 Let them say, as they must say some thing: a ke-ro-sene beau-ty, \*

A 1 Let them say, let them say, as they must say some-thing: (hum) *mp* \*

A 2 Let them say, let them say, as they must say some-thing: (hum) *mp* \*

T 1 Let them say, let them say, let them say, (hum) *mp* \*

T 2 Let them say, let them say, let them say, (hum) *mp* \*

B 1 Let them say, let them say, let them say, (hum) *mp* \*

B 2 Let them say, let them say, let them say, (hum) *mp* \*

Let them say, let them say, let them say, (hum)

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

S 1 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *mf*

S 2 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

A 1 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

A 2 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

T 1 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

T 2 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

B 1 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

53 *f* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

B 2 a ke - ro - sene beau - ty. It burned, it burned, it

Let Them Not Say

12

Declamatory  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

S 1 burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

S 2 burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

A 1 burned, \_\_\_\_\_ it burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

A 2 burned, \_\_\_\_\_ it burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

T 1 burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

T 2 burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

B 1 burned, \_\_\_\_\_ it burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

58 *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

B 2 burned, \_\_\_\_\_ it burned. Let them say, let them say we warmed our-selves by it, \_\_\_\_\_

**Exultant**

63 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

S 1 read by its light, read by its light, read by its light, praised,

S 2 read by its light, read by its light, read by its light, praised,

A 1 read by its light, read by its light, read by its light, we

A 2 read by its light, read by its light, by its light, we

T 1 8 read by its light, read by its light, praised,

T 2 8 read by its light, read by its light, praised,

B 1 read by its light, read by its light, praised, we

B 2 read by its light, read by its light, by its light, we

Let Them Not Say

\* - hold as long as possible while avoiding staggered breathing

Insistent and bitter  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54$

*p* (sopranos can omit this phrase if needed)

68 *ff* *rit.* *fff*  $\text{♩}^*$  *p*  $\text{♩}^*$  *p* (sopranos can omit this phrase if needed)

S 1  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned.

S 2  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned.

A 1  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned.

A 2  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned.

T 1  
8 praised, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned.

T 2  
8 praised, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned. it

B 1  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned, it burned, it

B 2  
praised, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ praised, \_\_\_\_\_ and it burned, it burned, it



