

SUSPENSION:

A SERIES OF MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

No:1

To start us off I have chosen John Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

A personal favourite (I conducted it at my sister's wedding in 2018 so it holds particular sentimental value), this piece expresses some really rather beautiful sentiments taken from Numbers 6. In this piece, Rutter follows a long-held tradition of composers turning to biblical and liturgical texts to provide a wonderful basis for choral music. In this instance, the words remind us that even in dire circumstances, there is someone looking out for our best interests and we never have to face our situation alone. At a time when many of us find ourselves in physical isolation, I hope this music provides us with a feeling of spiritual solidarity.

In this piece, I particularly like how the mood seems to shift at the point at which the higher voices sing 'The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you'. I don't know about you, but to me it seems as though the texture really opens out at this point, like a beam of light breaking through the clouds. Hopefully it will be a sunny day when you're reading this and you'll be able to see lots of those out of your window!

Something to listen out for in this piece: the gentle, rolling fragment which runs throughout the accompaniment. Personally, this reminds me of water bobbing along in a river. Maybe as you listen to this you'll be able to think of somewhere other than wherever it is you're currently finding yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcYzO8Y4PH0>

Enjoy.
Sarah.