

# Peace and quiet

*Miers un kluss*

A series of ten double-canons  
setting intertwined verses of nature and serenity  
from two poems by Māris Salējs,  
in both Latvian and English  
translated by the composer,  
for six-part treble chorus (SMA/SMA) *a cappella*

## Eric Banks

Commissioned by and dedicated to  
the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde,  
Paige Fumbanks Mathis, Director  
to be premiered at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games  
in Riga, Latvia, in July 2014.

# Peace and quiet

*Miers un kluss*

poems by Māris Salējs, translated by the composer Eric Banks

## About this work

After being invited to perform at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games in Riga, my friend and colleague Paige Mathis approached me about composing a work in both Latvian and English to be premiered at this spectacular international event. After much searching on the web, I discovered the poetry of Māris Salējs, and immediately reached out to him with the idea of collaborating together on this piece. As it turns out, he is also a musician, and since this work was to be premiered in his homeland, Māris was happy to provide the poetry for it. As I looked through his poems, I found two short works that contained the single lines "peace" and "quiet." I instantly thought of combining these two ideas into the English idiom ("Peace and quiet") for the title, and have intermingled the lines of Salējs' separate poems into a single one for the purposes of this composition. Since I don't speak Latvian myself, I enlisted Māris' help, as well as that of two friends: Sabine Ruthensteiner and Heather MacLaughlin Garbes - to decipher the meaning of these poems, and perfect their pronunciation. Below you will find the Latvian text of this piece, as well as my English translation for singing.

This piece is composed for two 3-part choirs, and is about 8 minutes in duration. Throughout the piece, one choir sings in Latvian (transliterated into IPA, the International Phonetic Alphabet), and the other sings in English. With each new phrase of the poem, the two choirs swap roles (and languages). Each English phrase is sung as a three-part melodic canon (at the third and fifth, or triad) with a two-beat delay. Each Latvian phrase is intoned also as a three-part canon with the same delay, but as a non-melodic 'recitation' of the poem. With the iteration of each Latvian phrase, the reciting tone rises (a step in the scale between C4 and C5), and then drops the octave to begin again. As the Latvian canon rises up the diatonic scale, the rhythmic delay causes each harmonic unison to grow intermittently into a harmonic second. The resultant harmonic "clashes" within these Latvian phrases creates an effect that is like an aural "ribbon" - a seemingly endless strand of recited text that alternatively thickens and thins.

Miers.

*Peace.*

Vakars saritina buru.

*The evening has taken in its unfurled sails.*

Koki sakūst par valni.

*The trees have intertwined their branches to form a wall.*

Mijkrēšļa gaiss staigā caur lapām kas rudeni birs.

*The twilight breezes wander through the leaves that soon will fall.*

Un priežu galvas paliek nekustīgas.

*And the tops of the pines are still.*

Mieži izstaro vasarā iekrāto gaismu.

*The fields of barley glow and shine, after gathering the summer light.*

No staba aizlido stārks.

*The stork, having rested on its perch, spreads its wings wide to take flight.*

Vējš stāj; beidz pūst. Ir silts.

*The wind subsides, and dies away. It is warm.*

Es tevi klusi turu pie dzīvības:

*Silently, I keep my memory of you alive:*

Kā trauslu stiklu,

*It is like the most delicate glass,*

Kā savu elpu pēdējo.

*Like my own very last breath.*

Kluss.

*Quiet.*

I am so grateful to Paige, Māris, the Atlanta Young Singers, and Ginny Thompson (the Executive Director of AYS), for making this work possible. Thank you all so much! I'm looking forward to our meeting and celebrating in Riga!



Eric Banks

©2015 Eric Banks

# Peace and quiet

Māris Salējs (Marians Rižis)

*Miers un kluss*

Eric Banks

♩ = 76

1

S1 *pp* Peace... peace...

M1 *pp* Peace... peace...

A1 *pp* Peace... peace...

2

S2 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

M2 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

A2 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

3

S1 peace... peace...

M1 peace... peace...

A1 peace... peace...

4

S2 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

M2 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

A2 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

5

S1

M1

A1

6

S2

M2

A2

SAMPLE<sup>2</sup>

S1 *p distinto*  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

M1 *p distinto*  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

A1 *p distinto*  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

10

S2 *mp*  
 ars... The eve - ning has ta - ken in, the eve - ning

M2 *mp*  
 ars... The eve - ning has ta - ken in, the

A2 *mp*  
 ars... The eve - ning has ta - ken in,

S1  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

M1  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

A1  
 va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru... va - kars sa - ri - ti - na bu - ru...

14

S2  
 has ta - ken in its un - furled sails, its un - furled sails.

M2  
 eve - ning has ta - ken in its un - furled sails, its un - furled sails.

A2  
 the eve - ning has ta - ken in its un - furled sails, its un - furled

©2015 Eric Banks

SAMPLE

3

S1 *mp* The trees have in - ter - twined, have

M1 *mp* The trees have in - ter - twined, have in - ter - twined

A1 *mp* The trees have in - ter - twined, have in - ter - twined their

18 The trees have in - ter - twined, have in - ter - twined their

S2 *p distinto* ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι...  
sails.

M2 *p distinto* ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι...  
sails.

A2 *p distinto* ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι...  
sails.

S1 *mf* in - ter - twined their bran - ches to form a wall,

M1 *mf* their bran - ches to form a wall,

A1 *mf* bran - ches to form a wall, to

22 bran - ches to form a wall, to

S2 ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι...

M2 ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι...

A2 val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ val - νι... ko - λ - κι sa - kust παρ

©2015 Eric Banks

SAMPLE

S1 to form a wall, have in - ter - twined their bran - ches to form a  
 M1 to form a wall, have in - ter - twined their bran - ches to form a wall.  
 A1 form a wall, have in - ter - twined their bran - ches to form a wall.

26

S2 ko - λ - κί sa - kust par val - ni...  
 M2 ko - λ - κί sa - kust par val - ni...  
 A2 val - ni... ko - λ - κί sa - kust par val - ni... ko - λ - κί sa - kust par

S1 wall. *p distinto* mij - krej - liλ ga's sta' - ga... mij - krej - liλ  
 M1 *p distinto* mij - krej - liλ ga's sta' - ga... mij - krej - liλ ga's sta' - ga...  
 A1 *p distinto* mij - krej - liλ ga's sta' - ga... mij - krej - liλ ga's sta' - ga...

30

S2 *mp* The twi - light bree - zes wan - der, the twi - light bree - zes  
 M2 *mp* The twi - light bree - zes wan - der, the twi - light  
 A2 *mp* val - ni... The twi - light bree - zes wan - der,

©2015 Eric Banks

SAMPLE  
DO NOT PRINT

S1 ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga... mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup> ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga... mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup>

M1 mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup> ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga... mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup> ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga...

A1 mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup> ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga... mi<sup>1</sup> - krej - li<sup>1</sup> ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga...

34

S2 wan - der, the twi-light bree - zes, the twi-light bree - - - zes wan - der

M2 bree - zes wan - der, the twi-light bree - zes, the twi-light bree - - - zes

A2 the twi-light bree - zes wan - der, the twi-light bree - zes, the twi-light bree - - -

S1 ga's sta<sup>1</sup> - ga... ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas ru - de-ni birs... ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas

M1 ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas ru - de-ni birs... ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas ru - de-ni birs...

A1 ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas ru - de-ni birs... ts<sup>Λ</sup>r la - pam kas ru - de-ni birs...

38

S2 through the leaves, through the leaves that soon will fall, that

M2 wan - der through the leaves, through the leaves that soon will fall,

A2 zes wan - der through the leaves, through the leaves that soon will

SAMPLE  
DO NOT PRINT

S1 ru - de-ni birs... tsΛ<sup>w</sup>r la - pam κλs ru - de-ni birs...

M1 tsΛ<sup>w</sup>r la - pam κλs ru - de-ni birs...

A1 mp

42 tsΛ<sup>w</sup>r la - pam κλs ru - de-ni birs... And the

S2 soon will fall. 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku -

M2 that soon will fall. 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs

A2 fall, that soon will fall. 'un

*p distinto*

*p distinto*

*p distinto*

S1 mp And the tops of the pines, the

M1 mp And the tops of the pines, the tops of the

A1 tops of the pines, the tops of the pines

46

S2 sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un

M2 pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs...

A2 pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku -



S1 tops of the pines are *p*

M1 pines are still, *p*

A1 *p* are still,

49

S2 pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku -

M2 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs

A2 sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un

S1 still, are still.

M1 are still.

A1 are still.

52

S2 sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs...

M2 pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs...

A2 pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku - sti - gλs... 'un pri - λ - zu gal - vλs pa - li - λk nε - ku -

SAMPLE  
DO NOT PRINT

S1 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

M1 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

A1 *pp* mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

55 mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

S2 *pp* Peace... peace...

M2 *pp* Peace... peace...

A2 *pp* sti - gvs... Peace... peace...

S1 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

M1 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

A1 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

60 Ars... mi - - - - - Ars... mi - - - - -

S2 peace... peace...

M2 peace... peace...

A2 peace... peace...

SAMPLE<sup>9</sup>

S1 *mf* The fields of bar - ley, the

M1 *mf* The fields of bar - ley, the fields of

A1 *mf* The fields of bar - ley, the fields of bar - ley

64 AFS... The fields of bar - ley, the fields of bar - ley

S2 *p distinto*  
mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

M2 *p distinto*  
mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro - Λ va - sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro - Λ va - sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

A2 *p distinto*  
mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i-Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i-Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

S1 fields of bar - ley glow and shine,

M1 bar - ley glow and shine, glow

A1 glow and shine, glow and

68 glow and shine, glow and

S2 mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

M2 mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro - Λ va - sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro - Λ va - sΛ-ra 'i - Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

A2 kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i-Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu... mi-Λ-3I 'iz-stΛ-ro-Λ va-sΛ-ra 'i-Λ - kra - to-Λ ga's-mu...

©2015 Eric Banks

SAMPLE  
DO NOT PRINT

S1 glow and shine after ga-thering the

M1 and shine after ga-thering the sum - - -

A1 shine af-ter ga-thering the sum - - - - mer

72

S2 mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu...

M2 mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro - - - a va - sa-ra 'i - l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro - a va - sa - ra 'i - l-kra-to-a ga's-mu...

A2 kra - to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra - to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-

S1 sum - - - - mer light, the sum - - - - mer

M1 - - mer light, the sum - - - - mer light.

A1 light, the sum - - - - mer light.

76

S2 mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra-to-a ga's-mu...

M2 mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro - a va - sa-ra 'i - l-kra-to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro - a va - sa - ra 'i - l-kra-to-a ga's-mu...

A2 kra - to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-kra - to-a ga's-mu... mi-l-a-zi 'iz-sta-ro-a va-sa-ra 'i-l-

SAMPLE

S1 light. *p distinto* no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ

M1 *p distinto* no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ

A1 *p distinto* no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks...

80 no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks...

S2 *mf* The stork, hav-ing rest-ed on its perch,

M2 *mf* The stork, hav-ing rest-ed on its

A2 *mf* kra-to-Λ ga's-mu... The stork, hav-ing

S1 sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ

M1 starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ

A1 no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks...

84 no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks...

S2 spreads its wings wide, spreads its wings wide, spreads its wings

M2 perch, spreads its wings wide, spreads its wings wide, spreads its

A2 rest-ed on its perch, spreads its wings wide, spreads its wings wide,

S1 sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ

M1 starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ

A1

88

S2 no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks... no-Λ sta-bΛ 'aiz-li-do-Λ starks...

S2 wide; the stork spreads its wings to take flight, take

M2 wings wide; the stork spreads its wings to take flight,

A2 spreads its wings wide; the stork spreads its wings to take flight,

S1 sta - bΛ 'aiz - li - do - Λ starks... no - Λ sta - bΛ 'aiz - li - do - Λ starks...

M1 starks... no - Λ sta - bΛ 'aiz - li - do - Λ starks...

A1

92

S2 flight. The

M2 take flight. veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz

A2 take flight. veɪʃ

SAMPLE

*mp*

S1 The wind sub - sides, and dies a -

M1 *mp* The wind sub - sides, and dies a - way.

A1

96 wind sub - sides, and dies a - way.

S2

M2

A2

pust; 'r silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz pust; 'r

beɪdz pust; 'r silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz pust;

staɪ, beɪdz pust; 'r silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz

*p*

S1 way. It is warm. It is warm.

M1 *p* It is warm. It is warm.

A1 *p* It is warm. It is warm.

100

S2

M2

A2

silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz pust; 'r silts...

'r silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz pust; 'r silts...

pust; 'r silts... veɪʃ staɪ, beɪdz pust; 'r silts...

©2015 Eric Banks

SAMPLE

S1 *pp* Qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

M1 *pp* Qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

A1 *pp* Qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

105 Qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

S2 *pp* klus... klus... klus...

M2 *pp* klus... klus... klus...

A2 *pp* klus... klus... klus...

S1 qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

M1 qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

A1 *p distinto* qui - - - - - et... 'es

110 qui - - - - - et... qui - - - - - et...

S2 klus... klus...

M2 klus... klus...

A2 klus... klus...

©2015 Eric Banks



**THIS FILE IS INTENTIONALLY  
INCOMPLETE.**

For the complete score  
please purchase a print licence.



©2015 Eric Banks