THE WARM EMBRACE

Ian Callanan

In loving memory of Kevin Byrne, January 19, 2009 and Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn, February 3, 2009

Ballad style \( \frac{3}{4} = 60 \)

D \( \rightarrow \) D/C \( \rightarrow \) G/B \( \rightarrow \) ASUS4 \( \rightarrow \) A

Verses 1–4

Cantor

1. Now the time has come: my life’s complete. I de-
2. Now as darkness come I know I’ll be an
3. Now I know I’ve gone before my time, but my
4. In the presence of the Mighty One, I will

part this place, my Lord to greet. Through the
angel for the Lord to see. All my
dreams of life they so live on. So keep
tell of all that life has done. All my

A Guitar Edition is available separately from the publisher, G-8269G.
Thoughts fond memories, I’ll see all the
fond of me the memories, for I
thoughts and dreams, I do believe, calm the

Window of my heart I truly, keep as I
D

Wondrous things you’ve done for me.

Travel through my life in sleep.

Look on you with gentle peace.

Aching heart as now I leave.

D

Refrain

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is

D G D D
all I take to the place where all are safely home, in the
warm embrace of Jesus’ arms.
leave this place, though sad you feel, know that

Verse 5

leave this place, though sad you feel, know that

all your pain will gently heal. All my memories, I

do believe, help me cherish you as I take leave.
Refrain

Descant

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is...

Melody

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is...

Harmony

My heart will sing of joyful days when all I am is...

...all I take to the place where all are safely home, in the

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...all I take to the place where all are safely home, in the
warm embrace of Jesus’ arms. My arms.

To the place where all are safely home, in the

(C)m/B

(C)m/B

1. (D) E (A7SUS4) B7SUS4

2. (Bm) (C)m

To the place where all are safely home, in the

(C)m/B

(C)m/B

1. (D) E (A7SUS4) B7SUS4

2. (Bm) (C)m
Notes

The death of a young adult is something that we struggle to come to terms with, especially when the death is unexpected. Sudden Adult Death Syndrome remains a mystery to us—how could a seemingly healthy young adult suddenly fall victim to an unfair and incomprehensible illness? I have unfortunately known many young adults who have passed away before their time.

In January 2009 I received a phone call informing me that Kevin Byrne, a young adult attendee of the Knockadoon Music and Liturgy course, had passed away unexpectedly. Less than two weeks later I received another call telling me of the death of my friend Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn. Needless to say these two deaths hit me hard. I prayed for them constantly and held their memories close to my heart.

As I struggled to come to terms with the demise of two young adults in their prime, a song of hope was born: the memory of these two wonderful young men kept coming to mind on numerous occasions when I tried to play the piano. Searching for words of comfort in song, I realized that, in spite of the abundance of music for funerals, there seemed to be a need for a song from the perspective of the young person to those of us who remain. My struggle to comprehend these events soon became a blessing when the words and music of “The Warm Embrace” seemed to flow freely from me over the course of an evening.

“The Warm Embrace” is very much in the style of an Irish ballad and should be performed as straightforward as possible, with the lyrics in the forefront at all times. It is my hope that this simple offering will bring comfort to all who have lost a young adult in their lives.

—Ian Callanan