The Warm Embrace

Ian Callanan
In loving memory of Kevin Byrne, January 19, 2009 and Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn, February 03, 2009

THE WARM EMBRACE

Words and Music by
Ian Callanan

Introduction

\[mp\]  
\[D\]  
\[D/C\]  
\[G/B\]  
\[A\]  

\[D\]  
\[D/C\]  
\[G/B\]  
\[A\]  

Verses 1-4

Cantor \[mp\]  
\[D\]  
\[G\]  

1. Now the time has come, my life's complete. I depart this place, my Lord to meet. Through the window of my heart I'll see. All the wondrous things you've done for me.
2. Now as darkness comes I know I'll be an angel for the Lord to see. All my memories I truly keep, as I travel through my life in sleep.
3. Now I know I've gone before my time, but my dreams of life they do live on. So keep fond of me, the memories for I look on you with gentle peace.
4. In the presence of the mighty one, I will tell of all that life has done. All my thoughts and dreams do believe, calm the acheing heart as now I leave.
Refrain

Melody

My heart will sing of joyful days.

Harmony

My heart will sing of joyful days.

Descant

Majestic hand, I sing of my joy

As I take to the place where all are

Gentle place, all is safe home,

D/Asus4

all I take, to the place where all are

safe - ly home, in the warm embrace of Jesus’ arms.

G6

all I take, to the place where all are

safe - ly home, in the warm embrace of Jesus’ arms.

D/A7sus4

all I take, to the place where all are

safe - ly home, in the warm embrace of Jesus’ arms.

D/C

all I take, to the place where all are

safe - ly home, in the warm embrace of Jesus’ arms.
5. As I 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.

My heart will sing of joyful days. When

all I am is all I take, to the place where all are
The death of a young adult is something that we struggle to come to terms with. Sudden Adult Death syndrome remains a mystery to us and how a young adult in the prime of their life can suddenly fall victim to what often is an unfair and incomprehensible illness is something we struggle with. Over the past number of years I have unfortunately known many young adults who have passed away before their time.

In January 2009 I received a phone call informing me of the death of one of the young adults, Kevin Byrne, who attend the Knockadoon Music and Liturgy course who had passed away unexpectedly. Less than 2 weeks later I received another call telling me of the death of a friend Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn. Needless to say these two deaths hit me hard, and while I struggled to come to terms with the death of two young adults in the prime of their lives a song of hope was born. While attempting to play piano on numerous occasions the memory of these two wonderful young men kept coming into my mind. I prayed constantly for them and held their memories close to my heart. In searching for some words of comfort in song, it became very clear to me that while there is an abundance of music for funerals there seemed to be a need for a piece of music that would speak from the perspective of the young person to those of us who remain. This struggle that I was facing soon became a blessing when one evening the text and music of The Warm Embrace of Jesus’ Arms seemed to flow freely from me and so this piece was born.

The Warm Embrace of Jesus’ Arms is very much in the style of an Irish Ballad and should be performed as simply as possible ensuring that the lyrics take pride of place at all times. It is my hope that this piece of music will bring comfort to all those who have lost a young adult in their lives.