

## THERE IS SWEET MUSIC HERE

COMPOSER: ERIC WILLIAM BARNUM

VOICING: SATB (DIVISI)

ACCOMPANIMENT: PIANO

TEXT: ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

(SECULAR)

### **About this Work:**

In setting this many colored vivid text, Barnum wonderfully creates music that is rich with color yet constantly adapting to the text. Accompanied by creative keyboard writing, this work is both harmonically and melodically satisfying. Your singers will connect with the mystical nature of the writing as it is presented in harmonically challenging and interesting ways. Division of voices is present here but not to an overwhelming extent. I encourage you to allow for this touching text to resonate with your singers as ‘music brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies’.

Available from Music Spoke

# THIS ALIEN LANDSCAPE

COMPOSER: TIMOTHY C. TAKACH  
VOICING: SATB (DIVISI)  
ACCOMPANIMENT: CROTALES, SUSPENDED CYMBAL,  
SURDO OR FLOOR TOM  
TEXT: STEPHEN CRANE

## **About this Work:**

I first heard this work at the 2014 NCACDA conference in Des Moines, IA performed by Eastview High School, Greg Douma conductor. This exquisite high school choir opened with the work in an extremely effective manner by spreading out throughout the performance space and moving towards the altar during interlude-like material. The work is centered on the potential for the future of our society. The central character returns from a journey to a darkened distraught land to find out that he/she is seeing what their home has now become. This cautionary tale should serve as an enlightening tool for our students in that we are living in a highly volatile time wherein their choices can either directly improve or fracture our world. Encouraging students to think critically about their environment is a strong residual effect of this work. Additionally the work is scored for floor tom and crotales (small tuned cymbals) and creates a mystical and atmospheric soundscape.

Available from Graphite Publishing

## COME HOME

COMPOSER: JAMES DEIGNAN  
VOICING: SSA  
ACCOMPANIMENT: PIANO WITH CELLO  
TEXT: CHRISTINE DEIGNAN

### **About this Work:**

Very seldom do we encounter new works that capture the essence of those of the past but with a new and exciting vantage point. In “Come Home”, Christine Deignan captures the beauty of the art of story and that of the folk song. This narrative text speaks of a young girl, Isabel, and cries for her to come home so that she may see the beauty found on her Grandfather’s farm. This is most certainly relevant text for our students as it presents the opportunity to reflect upon one’s home, community, family, etc... There is great value in young people realizing that they are a part of something special, that they are loved, and that home will always represent something beautiful. Enjoy this well crafted work for SSA choir and cello.

Available from [jamesdeignan.com](http://jamesdeignan.com)

## WE ARE THE SONG

(Graphite Publishing)

COMPOSER: JOSHUA SHANK  
VOICING: SATB  
ACCOMPANIMENT: PIANO  
TEXT: ROBERT RESSLER

### **About this Work:**

“Though we may not have been called heros, that does not mean we aren’t brave.”

This beautiful mystic poem, set by Shank, speaks of the many things that we as human beings are. Set to a particularly lyric melody with indulgent accompaniment, Shank brings this text to life. As is often found within his music, Shank demonstrates care for the text as each phrase is altered to align with what the words are expressing. The resulting effect is thrilling. Though there is divisi in this work, a majority of the vocal writing is accessible and sits in comfortable ranges (brief moments of the soprano voice are written particularly high). This work is, again, another example of a brilliant text that our students will be able to identify with.

# HANAQPACHAP

(CPDL)

COMPOSER: JUAN PEREZ BOCANEGRA

VOICING: SATB

ACCOMPANIMENT: UNACCOMPANIED

TEXT:

## **About this Work:**

Anonymous (early 17th c. Peru)

from the Ritual Formulario, Cuzco, 1631, compiled by Juan Perez Bocanegra

### **Original Text**

### **English Translation**

1. Hanacpachap cussicuinin  
Huaran cacta muchascai qui  
Yupairurupucoc mallqui  
Runacunap suyacuinin  
Callpan nacpa quemi cuinin  
Huaciascaita.

O tree bearing thrice-blessed fruit,  
Heaven's joy! a thousand times  
shall we praise you.  
O hope of humankind,  
helper of the weak.  
hear our prayer!

2. Uyarihuai muchascaita  
Diospa rampan Diospa maman  
Yurac tocto hamancaiman  
Yupascalla, collpascaita  
Huahuarquiman suyuscaita  
Ricuchillai.

Attend to our pleas,  
O column of ivory, Mother of God!  
Beautiful iris, yellow and white,  
receive this song we offer you;  
come to our assistance,  
show us the Fruit of your womb!

This piece is often used as a processional and can be accompanied by any number of instruments. This could be a good means to getting student instrumentalists involved in your choral program. The work is accessible and explores a new language, which is not terribly difficult. Consider the work for your singers!

## AVE MARIA

(Music Spoke)

COMPOSER:	JOSHUA HIMES
VOICING:	SATB DIVISI
ACCOMPANIMENT:	UNACCOMPANIED
TEXT:	LATIN PRAYER

### **About this Work:**

Though this piece may conflict with my mission of providing timely and relevant thematic material to our students, this setting is too finely woven to leave out. The division between voices is simple and intelligent, creating music that is harmonically dense without requiring too much from your singers. Though the ‘Ave Maria’ text may be set too often and without tremendous imagination, I believe Himes finds a happy medium between staying true to the essence of the text and taking advantage of opportunities for creative musical interpretation. Consider this work for your chamber choir or small group that meets semi regularly. It is a quick learn and will show rewards every rehearsal.

## SUNRISE CAROL

(JW Pepper & danielelder.com)

COMPOSER:	DANIEL ELDER
VOICING:	SATB
ACCOMPANIMENT:	UNACCOMPANIED
TEXT:	DANIEL ELDER

### **About this Work:**

Though this piece is available for purchase on JWPepper's 'MyScore', Daniel Elder will receive 80% of the profits from purchases of the score. This is a significant improvement from the usual 10% from standard publishers. The work, "Sunrise Carol", is a wonderfully simple ode to the 'new day'. Lilted 3/4 sections are alternated with a soli quartet that offers repose and reflection from the otherwise bright and luminous song about sunrise. Ranges are appropriate for a high school ensemble and the commissioning choir (South Salem High School Symphonic Choir, Will McLean conductor) is featured on the sample recording. If you are interested in hearing what this might sound like in developing voices, please visit Daniel's YouTube page.

ON MY DREAMS  
(Graphite Publishing)

COMPOSER:	JOCELYN HAGEN
VOICING:	SATB
ACCOMPANIMENT:	ACCOMPANIED
TEXT:	WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

**About this Work:**

As can be expected, Hagen presents a work that is exciting, fresh, and one that cannot be articulated into words. Its uniqueness can only be observed when listening to it! The accompaniment is thrilling and provides some unique harmonic color to the choral writing. The choral writing in this work is accessible; though the vocal range may be difficult at times, I believe it is within reach. The work quick, which is always needed in our world, and serves as a nice middle ground in your concert program. If your program has a capable pianist, this work will fit well with him or her. Consider this work for your ensemble today!

## KYRIE

(Music Spoke)

COMPOSER: NICK DAHLQUIST  
VOICING: SATB  
ACCOMPANIMENT: ACCOMPANIED (WITH OPTIONAL STRINGS)  
TEXT: MASS ORDINARY

### **About this Work:**

A beautiful setting of the Kyrie text from the mass ordinary uses language that one would expect to hear in other avenues, Broadway, musical theatre, songwriting, etc... Dahlquist does a good deal of arranging for show choirs, so the drama of the text is found in every measure as it is in some of his arrangements. The work does contain divisi, but only in moments of great significance. The true basis for this piece is smart and efficient melodic writing. I encourage you to explore this beautiful setting available through [musicspoke.com](http://musicspoke.com)

# SONG OF KABIR

(Seafarer Press)

COMPOSER: ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

VOICING: SATB

ACCOMPANIMENT: UNACCOMPANIED

TEXT: KABIR

## **About this Work:**

Elizabeth Alexander created an amalgamation of Kabir's poetry in this work. The resulting effect is beautiful.

### **Song of Kabir**

You are in us, and we are in You, Each being distinct, yet ever united. You are the tree, the seed, and the cell; You are the flower, the fruit, and the shade; You are the sun, the light, and the lighted; You are the manifold form of infinite space;	You are the breath, the word, and the meaning; You are the limit and the limitless. You are the Immanent Mind in us; You are the Supreme Soul within the soul. Blessed are all who see You. Kabir, adapted
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The piece uses a variety of mixed meters, but in a way that will aid your students as they learn the piece. The text is set in such a way that the meter changes are natural and lend themselves to the pattern of speech. Harmonically, the work is quite engaging. Though the piece almost never breaks away from four part vocal writing, Alexander successfully creates harmonic interest from chord to chord. I highly recommend this work as it fulfills a gap in our repertoire of mid-tempo works with approachable vocal writing.

# STARS OVER SNOW

(Music Spoke)

COMPOSER: TIMOTHY JON THARALDSON  
VOICING: SATB  
ACCOMPANIMENT: UNACCOMPANIED  
TEXT: SARA TEASDALE

## **About this Work:**

‘Stars Over Snow’ is one of those rare pieces that benefits from being simplistic. Slow harmonic movement and simple vocal lines do well to paint the pristine poem by Teasdale. This piece is also significant in its secular portrayal of winter and the season. Teasdale is able to so vividly paint a quiet winter night wherein stars shine and glisten over snow. The ultimate message of the piece is that where one ‘looks for a lovely thing’ he/she will ‘find it’ in nature and natural world. Consider this unaccompanied work for you December concert this coming year.

# WINTER WALK

(Graphite Publishing)

COMPOSER: TIMOTHY C. TAKACH  
VOICING: SATB  
ACCOMPANIMENT: UNACCOMPANIED  
TEXT: BRIAN NEWHOUSE

## **About this Work:**

### **V. Winter Walk**

The longest night

The brightest moon

The sharpest sting of cold

The barest branch

The hardest earth

My breath the only cloud

And I am out walking to ask the winter  
moon:

Who will I be when the spring rains come?

The air so still

Smoke rising straight

The snowbanks sleep so deep

The quiet star

The silent night

A lone bird wakes and sings

And I am out walking to hear my heart,

And I am out walking to hear my heart.

“The Longest Nights” is a multi movement choral work by Timothy Takach that sets exclusively secular winter poetry. The work was commissioned through a consortium of choirs, one in each of the fifty states. Takach had new poetry commissioned for the work, in addition to words from Wendell Berry, Paul Gruchow, and others. This particular movement is accessible, unaccompanied, and quite moving. The text is in very accessible to students and could create moments for reflection within the rehearsal. Phrasing will be so important as you prepare this work as the vocal lines/harmonies are not challenging. This piece is a great mid-year selection and will do wonders for the growth of your ensemble.

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