

Commissioned by the New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus, Steve A. Russell, Director
in celebration of its 20th Anniversary

A Burst of Song

1. A Shower of Mercy

To the birds you gave songs, the birds gave you songs in return.
You gave me only voice, yet asked for more, and I sing.
(LXXVIII from "Fruit Gathering" - R. Tagore)

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
excerpt from "Beggarly Heart" (*Gitanjali*)

Joan Szymko

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system is the piano accompaniment, marked 'Piano' and in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 72. It features dynamics of *f*, *mf*, and *mp*, with a *poco rit.* instruction. The second system contains the vocal lines for Tenor (T) and Bass (B). The Tenor part begins at measure 6. The Bass part has lyrics: 'When the heart is hard and parched, come u-pon me'. The vocal dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *p*. The third system is the piano accompaniment for the vocal lines, marked 'A tempo' and 'sostenuto', with dynamics of *p*, *mp*, and *p*.

12 *p dim. pp* Poco più mosso
— with a show-er of mer cy.

— with a show-er of mer cy.

dim. pp sub mf

17 *f* *mf*
T come u - pon me with a sh of mer - cy.

T *f* *mf*
come u - pon me with a show'r of mer - cy.

B *mf* *f* *mf*
come mer - - cy.

B *mf* *f* *mf*
co mer - - - cy.

f

Red.

20

Tempo primo

dim. *mp* *accel.*

When grace is lost from life, come,

dim. *mp*

When grace is lost from life, come,

dim. *mp*

is lost from life, come,

dim. *mp* *div.* *mp* *mp*

When grace is lost, come, come,

Tempo primo *legato* *8va* *accel.*

mf *dim.* *mp* *mf*

Ped.

8 a burst of song.

8 a burst of song.

8 a burst of song.

8 song

cresc.

1 2 3

ff Come with a burst of song.

ff Come with a burst of song.

ff Come with a burst of song.

ff Come with a burst of song.

ff

3

A Burst of Song

2. A Kiss of Blessing

Rabindranath Tagore
 "This Song of Mine,"
 #38 from *The Crescent Moon*

Joan Szymko

Andante ♩=64 *Espressivo* **poco rit. .**

TENOR 1
 This

TENOR 2
p This song of mine, will wind its mu-sic a-round you, my child, This

BARITONE
p This song of mine, will wind its mu-sic a-round you, my child,

BASS
 This

Andante ♩=64 *Espressivo* **poco rit. .**

Piano
p

A tempo *rit.* **A tempo** *p* *mp*

song of mine will wind its mu-sic a-round you like the fond arms of
 song of mine will wind a-round you the
 wind its mu-sic,
 song of mine will wind its mu-

A tempo *rit.* **A tempo**

poco rit. *dim.*
 love, the fond arms of love.
 fond arms of love, of love.
 the fond arms of love.
 - sic, the fond arms of

mp *dim.*
mp *dim.*

poco rit.

11 **Poco meno mosso** ♩=60

love.

Poco meno mosso ♩=60

14 *dim.* *p*

This song of mine will touch your fore-head like a

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

mp kiss, like a kiss, a kiss of blessing.

mp kiss, like a kiss, a kiss of blessing.

p like a kiss, *mp* like a kiss a ki

mp like a kiss a kiss of

Più mosso ♩=72

poco rit. *A tempo*

mf like a like a kiss.

mf a kiss, like a kiss.

mf like a kiss, like a kiss, like a

bless - ing, like a kiss,

poco rit. *A tempo*

kiss...

mf

like a kiss.

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

mf

My song will be like a pair of wings to your

mf

My song will be like a pair of wings to your

mf

My song will be like a pair of wings to your

mf *cresc. poco a poco*

30

8 dreams _____ your

8 dreams _____ like wings

dreams like wings

dreams _____ like wings to your

32

8 dreams, your dreams,

your dreams,

dreams, like

34

Musical score for measures 34 and 35. The score is written for a grand piano and consists of five staves: two treble clefs (top two staves) and three bass clefs (bottom three staves). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. All staves contain a whole rest in both measures 34 and 35.

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY
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INTENTIONALLY**

36

Musical score for measures 36 and 37. The score is written for a grand piano and consists of five staves: two treble clefs (top two staves) and three bass clefs (bottom three staves). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at the start of measure 36 and back to 4/4 at the start of measure 37. All staves contain a whole rest in both measures 36 and 37.

faith - full star o - ver - head when

41 *dim.* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 72$ *mp*

dark night is o-ver your road, o-ver your road.

mf *mp*

o-ver your road.

molto rit. $\text{♩} = 72$

Poco meno mosso
dolce mp

45 *mf*

T T My song will sit in the pu-pils of your eyes, and will

B B *p* My song will sit in the pu-pils of your eyes,

Poco meno mosso
dolce e sostenuto
mp

48 **Più mosso** *f*

car - ry your sight in-to the heart of things.

car - ry your sight the heart of things.

mp *mf*

car-ry your sight in - to the heart of things.

mp *mf*

car-ry your sight in - to the heart of things.

Più mosso

51 *mp* *p*

And when my voice is

mp *p*

And when my voice is

mp

55

molto rit. . . . **Tempo primo**

sil - enced, sil - enced in death, my

sil - enced, sil - enced in death, my

p *pp* *pp* *pp*

molto rit. . . . **Tempo primo**

p *dim.* *pp*

Ped.

60

song will speak in your liv - ing

song will speak in your liv - ing

song will speak in your liv - ing

song will speak in your liv - ing

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

p

Ped.

63

heart, _____ in your liv - ing heart. _____

heart. _____

heart, _____ in your liv - ing heart. _____

heart, _____ in your liv - ing heart. _____

p

p

Ped.

66

dim. (heart) _____ *rit.* _____ *attacca*

dim. (heart) _____

dim. (heart) _____

dim. (heart) _____

dim. (heart) _____

rit.

attacca

A Burst of Song

3. Thee and Me

Rabindranath Tagore
from "Maya" (*Gitanjali*)

Joan Szymko

con brio! ♩=164

Piano *f*

Tutti Tenor

mf

6 8

The great pa - geant of thee and me has

mf

8

cresc.

o - ver spread the sky

cresc.

o - ver spread the sky

cresc.

o - - - - ver spread

cresc.

o - ver spread the sky,

cresc.

Ped.

11

the sky.

f the sky

f the sky

sk the sky.

f the sky.

o - ver - spread the sky,

f

6 6 6 6

mf With the tune of thee and
mf With the tune of and
mf With the tune of thee and
mf With the tune of thee and

6 6 6

mf

15
 me all the air is vi - brant, and
 me all the air vi - brant, all the air is vi - bran[t]_
 me all the air is vi - brant, and
 me, all the air, and

f
f
f

cresc. L.H. R.H.

Ped.

all a - ges pass, and

all a - ges pass, and

all a - ges pass, and

f L.H. R.H. 6 6 6 6 6

ped.

all a - ges pass, and all a - ges

all a - ges pass, and all a - ges

all a - ges pass, and all a - ges

all a - ges pass, and all a - ges

accel. 6 6 6 6 4 4 4 4

ped.

Tempo primo

23

pass. with the hid - ing

pass. with the hid - ing and

pass. hid - ing

pass. hid - ing

Tempo primo

dim. mf

28

seek - ing of thee and me.

seek - ing of thee and me.

seek - ing thee and me,

seek - ing, thee and me,

f

mp *cresc poco a poco*
 hi - ding thee and me.

mp *cresc poco a poco*
 hid - ing thee and me,

cresc poco a poco
 hid - ing and seek - ing of thee and me.

cresc poco a poco
 hid - ing and seek - ing of thee and me.

mf *mp*

f
 The great pa - geant of

f *poco dim.*
 and me

f *poco dim.*
 The great pa - geant of

cresc. poco a poco *f*

R.H.
 2 1 2

L.H.
 5 4

N.B.

thee and me has o - ver spread the

mf o - ver spread *f*

thee and me o - - - - ver

Oh o - ver spread the

R.H. 3 1

ped.

45

sky the

sky the

spread the sky the

sky, o - ver - spread the

N.B.

47 *ff*
 sky.
ff
 sky.
ff
 sky.
ff
 sky,
 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
 6 6
 49
 Ped.

A Burst of Song

- song texts -
poetry by
Rabindranth Tagore

1. A Shower of Mercy

When the heart is hard and parched [up],
come upon me with a shower of mercy.
When grace is lost from life,
come with a burst of song.

- from "Beggarly Heart" (*Gitanjali*)

2. A Kiss of Blessing

This song of mine will wind its music around you,
my child, like the fond arms of love.
The song of mine will touch your forehead
like a kiss of blessing.
My song will be like a pair of wings to your dreams,
it will transport your heart to the verge of the unknown.
It will be like the faithful star overhead
when dark night is over your road.
My song will sit in the pupils of your eyes,
and will carry your sight into the heart of things.
And when my voice is silenced in death,
my song will speak in your living heart.

- from "This Song of Mine" (*The Crescent Moon* #38)

3. Thee and Me

The great pageant of thee and me has overspread the sky.
With the tune of thee and me all the air is vibrant,
and all ages pass with the hiding and seeking of thee and me.

- excerpt from "Maya" (*Gitanjali*)