

J O A N S Z Y M K O

Stars in Your Bones

a setting of
"Belonging"
by
ALLA BOZARTH
for
ssaa chorus & piano



JOAN SZYMKO

is widely regarded as a foremost composer of choral music in America today. She has been stirring up the pool of repertoire for women's chorus for over thirty years as

both a composer *and* conductor. Her music has been performed at every National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association since 2003. The ACDA recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as the recipient of the Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. Szymko directs Aurora Chorus, (Portland, Ore) has served on the choral music faculty at Portland State University and as a visiting artist, has workshopped her music with choirs in a variety of settings across the US and in the Netherlands. For more info, visit <joanszymko.com>

NOTES from the COMPOSER

The opening chords and exuberant opening unison suggests the "big bang"—the singular explosion theorized by astronomers as the origin of our expanding universe. (black note clusters at M.1-6 and at M.64-69 are to be played with forearm and side of hand). The piano *ostinato* that follows beginning at M.7 consists of a 5-note 16th-note pattern over a steady quarter-note 5/4 pulse, lending an unstable, fluctuating quality to the lyrics: "Earth changes..." As the underlying rhythm in the accompaniment settles, the lyrical quality of the setting takes hold, building toward a galvanizing, uplifting expression of "belonging."

This is the third prose poem by Alla Bozarth that I have set. I am drawn to Ms. Bozarth's imagery and to her universal expressions of spirituality.

ALLA RENÉE BOZARTH

Alla is a Russian, Celtic, Osage American poet, Episcopal priest, Ph.D. in performing arts and Gestalt psychotherapist soul caregiver who lives at the foot of Mt. Hood in Western Oregon. She has published 20 prose and poetry books and 4 audio albums with 14 more large poetry collections, 7 small books and 2 CDs ready for publication. Alla has written award winning poetry for over forty years. Her poems are widely used all over the world, often in collaboration with visual artists, singers and dancers.

Belonging

The small plot of ground
on which you were born
cannot be expected
to stay forever
the same.
Earth changes,
and home becomes different
places.
You took flesh
from clay
but the clay
did not come
from just one
place.
To feel alive,
important, and safe,
know your own waters
and hills, but know
more.
You have stars in your bones
and oceans
in blood.
You have opposing
terrain in each eye
you belong to the land
and sky of your first cry,
you belong to infinity.

For Aurora Chorus with love and gratitude
in celebration of her 25th Anniversary Season

Stars in Your Bones

Alla Bozarth

Joan Szymko

Tutti Unison $\text{♩} = 68$ *Maestoso* **f** **mf**

The small plot of ground on which you were born can-not be ex-pect-ed to

Piano $\text{♩} = 68$ [play black key clusters with hand/arm] **ff** **mf** **Ped.**

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

f **dim.** **poco accel.**

stay__ for-ev-er the same.

mf **poco accel.** **Ped.**

8 **Più mosso** ♩=74

Unison ends

mp

mf

(no ped.)

10

A

S1

mp _____

Earth chang - es,

A

p

Ped.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

12

S1

S2

earth chang - es and home

A1

mp _____

Earth chang - es

A2

mp _____

Earth chang - es

mp

ped. simile

16

S be-comes dif - frent pla - ces, —

S₂ *mp* and home, *mf*

A *mp* and home, *mf*

A₂ *mp* and home, *mf*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

18

home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

mf dif - frent pla - ces —

mf home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

mf home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

20

Musical score for measures 20-21. The score includes four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has six sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part includes a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking. Dynamic markings include 'mp' and 'p'.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

22 **B** *mp*

S1
S2

You took flesh from clay____ but the clay did not

mp

A1
A2

You took flesh from clay____ but the clay did not

B

mp

Ped.

Musical score for measures 22-23. The score includes four vocal staves (S1, S2, A1, A2) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has six sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part includes a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking. Dynamic markings include 'mp' and 'p'. The lyrics are: "You took flesh from clay____ but the clay did not". There is a "3" (triple) marking over the final notes of the vocal lines.

24 *mf* *dim.*

S1
S2 come from just one place

A1
A2 come from just one place, one

mf *dim.* *mp*

mf

ped. simile

26 *p* *poco meno mosso* // ♩=68 *mp*

S1
S2 To feel

A1
A2 place.

p *poco meno mosso* // ♩=68

dim.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

29 *mf*

S1
S2 a - live, to feel im - por - tant and

A1
A2 To feel a - live, and

mp *mf* *mp*

31

S1 safe, know your own wa - ters and hills,

S2 safe, know your own wa - ters and

A1 A2 safe, know your own

p *mp* *f* *mf*

34

know your own wa - ters and hills, know your own

hills, know your own wa - ters and hills,

wa - ters and hills, know your own wa - ters and hills,

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *f*

Tutti A

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

rit. A tempo

Unison

37

S1 *f* wa - ters and hills but know more. You have stars in your

S2 *f* but know more. You have stars in your

A1 *f* but know more. You have stars in your

A2 *f* but know more. You have stars in your

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

rit. A tempo

40

bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

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INTENTIONALLY

accel.

53

S1 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*
You be-long to the land and

S2 *cresc. poco a poco*
land and sky, land and

A1 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*
land, and sky, land and

A2

accel.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

56

rall. *ff* **Tempo primo**
sky of your first cry,

ff
sky of your first cry,

ff
sky of your first cry,

rall. **Tempo primo**
ff

59 *f* you be - long *f* S1 you be - long, S2 *f* you be - long You be -

62 S1 *ff* you be-long S2 *ff* you be - long to in - fi - ni - ty

A2 you be - long A1 long, you be - long to in - fi - ni - ty.

65 S A You be - long. You be - long.