



Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's music is sung by distinguished ensembles across North America and abroad including performances at international competitions and festivals, state and regional conferences and at six consecutive National Conferences of the American Choral Director's Association. Works such as "Nada te turbe" and "It Takes a Village" have entered into the standard repertoire in America.

The ACDA has recognized her lasting contribution to the choral arts by selecting Szymko as the recipient of the 2010 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission. In addition to her own Viriditas Music catalog, Joan Szymko has over sixty titles published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, *earthsongs*, Roger Dean Publishing Company, Treble Clef Press and Yelton Rhodes Music.

Composing for choir is a natural outgrowth of Szymko's creativity as a choral director, having developed community and church choirs in the Pacific Northwest over the past three decades. As with her conducting, Joan's dedication to craft and artistry, her love and respect for the singer, and her insistence on quality texts are all reflected in her choral writing. She is the Artistic Director of Aurora Chorus and a resident composer with Do Jump! Movement Theater (Portland, Or).

Notes

"viva sweet love" was composed for the Lincoln Center debut of the choral ensembles of Oregon State University. *Belle Voce* women's choir received a generous donation from the OSU Women's Giving Circle to support the commissioning of the work. The context of a spring premiere in New York City (Mother's Day 2013) dictated my search for text. I turned to E.E.Cummings, one of America's preeminent 20th century poets (and himself a New Yorker). This richly emotive poem bursts with energy and joy, perfectly capturing the essence of saying "yes" to love.

I had a great deal of fun creating this setting. It should be sung in an extravagant manner, as it is alternately driving and sensuous, explosive and tender, bold and shimmering. Take care to sing phrases as indicated. Taking liberties with tempo markings is not advised.

"sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love"

(all the merry little birds are
flying in the floating in the
very spirits singing in
are winging in the blossoming)

lovers go and lovers come
awandering awondering
but any two are perfectly
alone there's nobody else alive

(such a sky and such a sun
i never knew and neither did you
and everybody never breathed
quite so many kinds of yes)

not a tree can count his leaves
each herself by opening
but shining who by thousands mean
only one amazing thing

(secretly adoring shyly
tiny winging darting floating
merry in the blossoming
always joyful selves are singing)

“sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love”

—Edward Estlin Cummings (1894-1962)

"sweet spring is your" originally appeared in the
collection, "1 X 1" [published by H.Holt in 1944]

commissioned by Belle Voce, Dr. Tina Bull, Director
Oregon State University

viva sweet love

E.E. Cummings

Joan Szymko

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) is for the Piano, marked *Spritely* and *mp*. It features a complex rhythmic structure with time signatures of 5/8, 3/4, 5/8, 3/4, and 5/8. The second system (measures 6-10) is for four vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) and the Piano. The vocal parts are marked *p* and *poco a poco cresc.*. The lyrics are: "sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is love - time and". The piano accompaniment in the second system is marked *mp* and includes a large green watermark that reads "for perusal only".

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"sweet spring is your" from COMPLETE POEMS:1904-1962, by E.E. Cummings, Edited
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[3 equal voices]

Sostenuto

12 *mf* *mp*

vi - va sweet love and vi - va
 vi - va sweet love and vi - va
 vi - va sweet love and vi - va

mf *mp* *8va* *legato* *mp*

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16 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

sweet love and vi - va
 sweet love and vi - va
 sweet love and vi - va

cresc. *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

19

S1 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

S2 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

A1 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

A2 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

love sweet love"

mf *dim.* *p*

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23

Allegro

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

A *light & bouncy*

25

S1
S2
A1
A2

fly - ing in the float - ing in the ve - ry spi - rits sing - ing in are

fly - ing, float - ing spi - rits sing - ing in are

28

molto rit.

wing - ing in the blos - som ing) blos - som - ing

wing ing in the blos - som ing) blos - som - ing

Sost. *molto rit.*

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33

B *Slower, espressivo*
mp ♩=64

poco rit.

accel.

lov - ers go and lov - ers come a - wan - der - ing a - won - der - ing a - wan - der - ing a -

lov - ers come wan - der ing won - der - ing wan - der - ing a

N.B.

Ped.

37

pp ♩=76

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone_____

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone_____

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone_____ there's_____

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone_____ there's

♩=76

The piano accompaniment for measures 37-42 features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The dynamics range from *pp* to *p*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

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43

p *mp* *p* rit.

no-bo-dy else a - live_____

no-bo dy_____ else a - live_____

no-bo- dy_____ else a - live_____

no-bo- dy_____ else a - live_____

rit.

The piano accompaniment for measures 43-48 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The dynamics are *p* and *mp*. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and then to 5/4.

8 47 **C** **Tempo primo** *f sempre*

S1
S2 (such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew and

A1
A2 (such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew and

C **Tempo primo**
a bit marcato
pp — *molto* *f*

52

nei - ther did you — ev - ery - bo - dy

nei - the did you — and ev - y - bo - dy

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mf *cresc.* *f*

57

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of (yes)

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of (yes)

mf *f* *8va*

61

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

legato *mf* *dim.* *mp*

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64 [3 equal voices] *rit.* *p* *acc.* *mp* *mf*

not a tree can count his leaves

p *mp*

not a tree can count his leaves

mp *mf*

not a tree can count

rit. **D** *acc.* *p* *mp* *mp*

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79

S1
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

S2
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A1
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A2
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *dim.* *mp*

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85 **E** Tempo primo

S1
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

S2
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

A1
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

A2
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

E Tempo primo

p *mp*

89 *mp* *mf*

S1
S2
mer - ry in the blos - som-ing mer-ry in the blos - som-ing

A
mp *mf*
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry blos - som - ing

A2
mp *mf*
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry blos - som-ing

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94 *poco rit.* **F** A tempo *f*

S1
S2
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

A1
f
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

A2
f
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

poco rit. **F** A tempo *mp* *f* *mf*

101

ff *f*

S1 al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

S2 al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

A1 *ff* *mf* *f* al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

A2 *ff* *mf* *f* al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

105

mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

mp

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110

love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and

p and
p and
p and
p and

mp

8^{va}

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114

vi - va sweet
vi - va sweet
vi - va sweet

p

116 *mf*

love and vi - va

mp

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118 *mf*

sweet love sweet

121

love sweet love

love sweet love

love sweet love

love sweet love

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mp *p* *mp*

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