

JOAN SZYMKO

This Wonderful Feeling
No. 1

saboo

for
ssaa chorus
&
marimba

Joan Szymko (b.1957) is a composer and conductor from the Pacific Northwest. With a catalog of over 100 published choral works, her music is performed by ensembles across North America and abroad and is frequently heard at regional, national and international choral festivals and competitions. A frequently commissioned composer, she was the recipient of the ACDA's Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. More recently, she was commissioned by Eugene Vocal Arts to both create the libretto and compose a large scale work which focuses on those faced with the tragedy of Alzheimer's dementia. *Shadow and Light* was premiered in April 2016 to great critical acclaim. Composing for vocal ensembles is an extension of Szymko's creativity as a choral director. She has inspired community and church choirs in Seattle and Portland for over thirty years. In addition to her own published works, her music appears in the catalogs of Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Lorenz Corporation (Roger Dean Publishing), earthsongs, Treble Clef Press, and Walton Music. She is a founding member of the Independent Music Publishers Cooperative. Visit joanszymko.com to view her entire catalog of choral music.

Szymko lives and works in Portland, Oregon. She enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Do Jump! Movement Theater (1994-2004) as a performer, music director and resident composer. She recently served on the choral music faculty at Portland State University. As a visiting artist, she has workshopped her music, serving as guest conductor for choirs in a variety of educational settings across the US and in the Netherlands. Szymko has served as the Artistic Director of Aurora Chorus since 1993.

PROGRAM NOTES

In Spring of 1999, Peninsula Women's Chorus artistic director Patty Hennings had a dream: that PWC could work with school children to help them write poetry which could be set to music for the chorus. PWC collaborated with California Poets in the Schools, the largest writers-in-the-schools program in the nation. Poets collaborated with

PWC members who were elementary teachers in the Bay Area, working with nearly 400 students. Joan Szymko was one of three composers commissioned by PWC to select and set poems from the project. The two young poets Szymko selected for "This Wonderful Feeling" were in the third grade when these poems were written "Saboo," "In my Quiet Place," and "Purple Night" are a showcase for advanced women's chorus.

This Wonderful Feeling

1. saboo

What will we do
saboo saboo
walla kaboo
Should we jump off
the tree?
Will you play with me?
saboo, saboo
walla kaboo
and I love you
Wallakaboo

- Anna Madrigal

2. In My Quiet Place

In my quiet place everything is quiet.
Quiet as the butterfly on silent wings.
Quiet as a leaf falling through the air.
Quiet makes me feel like
I am the only one on earth.
The first to find this wonderful feeling inside me.

- Mary Whitney

3. Purple Night

Purple as a purple sky on a Sunday night.
Purple as a dark purple dress.
A purple dress on a purple night, a purple world
and a purple bird in flight.

- Mary Whitney

This Wonderful Feeling

1. saboo

Adriana Madrigal

Joan Szymko

Playfully

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Tenor (T) voices, along with piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/style is marked 'Playfully'. The score is divided into three systems:

- System 1:** Features vocal staves for S, S, and A, and a piano accompaniment staff. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.
- System 2:** Features vocal staves for S2 and A, and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics 'What will we do...' are present. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. A large green watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid on this system.
- System 3:** Features vocal staves for S1, S2, and A, and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics 'sa - boo' are present. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*.

8

S1 sa - boo sa - boo

S2 *poco* What will we do what will we do what will we

A *poco* What will we do what will we do what will we

mf

10

S1 wal-la wal-la wal-la-ka - boo

S2 do sa - boo wal-la-ka - boo

A do sa - boo sa - boo

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mf p poco a poco cresc.

12

S1 sa - boo sa - boo

S2 wal-la-ka - boo Should we jump off the tree?

A sa - boo Should we jump off the tree?

mp

14

S1 *f* Should we jump off the tree?— *f sempre* play with me?

S2 *f sempre* Will you—

A *f sempre* Will you—

f

17

S1 FOR

S2 *mf* sa - boo,

A *mf* sa - boo

ONLY

f *p*

19

S1 *mf* *f* What will we do, what will we do *p* sa - boo—

S2 sa - boo

A *f* will you play with me?

mp *mf*

21

S1 *mp* Will you play with

S2 *p* Will you play with me? *mp* Will you play with

A *p* Will you play with me? *mp* Will you play with

pp *mp* *p*

24

S1 *mf* me? Sa - boo__ *mf* wal-la-ka-boo

S2 *mf* me? Sa - boo__

A *mf* me? Sa - boo__ wal-la-ka-boo

mf

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

27

S1 *f* wal-la-ka-boo__

S2 *f* sa - boo__ sa - boo

A *f* sa - boo__

f

29

S1 Sa - boo *poco a poco dim.*

S2 Sa - boo *poco a poco dim.*

A Sa - boo *poco a poco dim.*

mp *f* *poco a poco dim.*

31

S1 *p* *mp* and I love

S2 *p* *mp* and I love

A *p* *mp* and I love

p *mp*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

In 2

33

S1 you *mf* Wal - la - ka - boo

S2 you *mf* Wal - la - ka - boo

A you *mf* Wal - la - ka - boo

mf

35

S1 *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

S2 *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

A *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

mf

37

S1 *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

S2 *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

A *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

pp *ppp*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY