

JOAN SZYMKO

This Wonderful Feeling

No. 3

Purple Night

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 also 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

3. Purple night

Marty Whitney

Joan Szymko

The musical score is for a piece titled "Purple night" in 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 48. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Marimba. The lyrics are: "Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, pur-ple sky. Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, a pur-ple sky. Pur-ple as a pur-ple, as a pur-ple sky, on a sun-day night. Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, on a Sun-day night. Ah". The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*, and performance instructions like "Warmly", "molto sostenuto", and "solo". There are also markings for "Mm" and "mm" under the Alto part. The Marimba part is marked with *pp* and *mf*. A large green watermark "FOR PERUSAL ONLY" is overlaid on the score.

10 *f* *più mosso* ♩.=76

S sky.

S pur - ple sky, *f* pur - ple night.

A pur - ple sky, *f* pur - ple night.

A pur - ple sky, *f* pur - ple night.

mf *più mosso* ♩.=76

FOR PERUSAL

13 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *accelerando*

16 *With delight* *mf* *piu mosso* ♩.=96 *poco*

S Pur-ple as _____ a pur - ple sky _____ on a Sun - day night. _____

A _____ *mp* pur - ple

With delight *mp* *q.=>»*

19

S Pur-ple as a

A pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple

A pur - ple pur - ple pur - ple

FOR

22

S *mf* Par - ple as a *poco* pur-ple sky.

S *poco* pur - ple sky on a Sun - day night.

A pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple as a pur-ple pur-ple as a *mp*

A pur - ple pur - ple pur - ple

PERUSAL ONLY

25

S Pur - ple as a pur - ple skahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi Ah,
(sky - skah-ee)

S *mp* Pur - ple sky, *mf* pur-ple sky, *f* pur - ple

A pur-ple as a pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple as a pur - ple as a pur-ple

A *mf* pur - ple pur - ple pur - ple

6

FOR PERUSAL

28

S *f* Ah, ah

S night, pur - ple sky,

A *f* night. pur - ple sky,

A sky. pur - ple sky,

f

ONLY

S1,2

31 *(solo)* **f**

S *f* *f* *f*
ah ah ah

S (S1, S2)
pur - ple sky.

A
pur - ple sky.

FOR
PERUSAL

34 *(solo)*

S *tutti mp* <
pur - ple,

S *solo* *tutti mp* <
Ah pur - ple,

A *solo* *tutti mp*
Ah pur - ple, pur - ple

mf *mp*

37

mf *mp*

S pur - ple, pur - ple night.

mf *mp*

S pur - ple, pur - ple night.

mp

A as a pur - ple night.

mp *mf* *mp*

Perc. *mf*
maracas - L and R together

40

pp

S pur - ple,

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Perc. *mp* *mf* *pp*

43

p

S pur - ple, pur - ple, dark pur - ple dress

p

S pur - ple, pur - ple as a dark pur - ple dress

p *p*

Perc. *p* *p*

46 *mf*
S on a pur - ple night. —
S on a pur - ple night. —

8 *mp* *mf* *mp*

49 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*
S pur - ple, pur - ple, pur - ple on a
S pur - ple, pur - ple, pur - ple on a pur - ple

Perc. *mp* *mp*

52 *f* *f sempre*
S pur - ple night, a pur - ple
S night. a pur - ple

363-8 *mf* *f* *f*
Perc. *mf*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

55

S dress on a pur-ple night, a pur - ple

S dress, pur-ple night, pur - ple

A dress pur-ple night, a pur - ple

A dress pur-ple night, pur - ple

Perc. *mf*

FOR
PERUSAL

58

S world,

S world and a pur - ple bird in

A world and a pur - ple bird in

A world,

Perc. *f* *mp*

61 *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

S a pur - ple bird in flight, _____

S *stagger breathe* *poco a poco cresc.*
flight. _____

A flight, _____ a pur - ple bird in flight, _____ *mf* and a

A _____ *mf* and a

10 Perc. _____ *mp*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

64 *poco a poco cresc.*

S (ah) _____ *f* Ah _____

S _____ *mf* Ah _____ *f* Ah _____

A pur - ple bird in flight, _____ *f* a pur - ple bird in flight,

A pur - ple bird in flight, _____ *f* a pur - ple bird in flight,

Perc. *mf*

67

S ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi Ah Ah Ah pur - ple *ff*

S ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi Ah Ah Ah pur - ple *ff*

A pur - ple *ff*

A pur - ple *ff*

Perc. *f* 2 *f* 2

FOR
PERUSAL
ONLY

70

S night.

S night.

A night.

A night.

Perc. *ff*