

J O A N S Z Y M K O

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS

for
SATB CHORUS
soprano, tenor soli
piano
violin



Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's choral music regularly receives performances at regional, national and international choral festivals, competitions and conferences; notably, at eight consecutive National Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (2003-17). She is widely recognized as one of the foremost American composers of compelling repertoire for women's choir. The ACDA recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as the recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. In addition to her self published catalog, Szymko has over sixty published titles with Santa Barbara Music, Roger Dean Music Publishing, Walton Music, earthsongs, Treble Clef Press and Yelton Rhodes Music. Composing for vocal ensembles is an extension of Joan's creativity as a choral director. Her passion for the singing voice, an embodied approach to sound, a dedication to craft and artistry, an insistence on quality texts—all relate to her work as a conductor and are reflected in her compositions. Abundant lyricism, rhythmic integrity and vigorous attention to text are hallmarks of her diverse and distinctive choral writing.

Joan Szymko lives and works in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. She enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Portland based Do Jump! Movement Theater as resident composer (1995-2012), creating underscoring for major touring productions. She served on the choral music faculty of Portland State University (2013-15) and has lead Aurora Chorus as Artistic Director since 1993. As a visiting artist, she workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad.

Love Bears All Things

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails.

PROGRAM NOTES

I was commissioned by Eugene Vocal Arts in 2014 through a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation's "Creative Heights" initiative to create the libretto and compose the music for a major work for chorus and orchestra on the subject of Alzheimer's dementia. After eight months researching both medical and personal aspects of Alzheimer's, including several interviews with care-partners (persons afflicted with dementia and their loved ones), I conceived a libretto in three parts with a total of sixteen movements, using quotes of patients, their loved ones, classic poetry of Dickinson and Rilke, hymn text and scripture, my own words, and compelling contemporary poetry directly related to Alzheimer's. "Shadow and Light, an Alzheimer's Journey in 16 Movements" was composed over the course of 2015 and is scored for SATB chorus, mezzo-soprano, tenor and soprano soli, and chamber orchestra (2,2,2,2 - 2hrn, 2 tpt, 2 perc, hrp, pno, strgs). My intent was to bear beautiful, loving witness to a growing population of care-partners that feels largely invisible and ignored, hoping to create something universal, beyond the scope of the disease.

"Love Bears All Things" is the 16th and final movement, an expression of the enduring love that prevails when all else—all words, all memory, all physical function fails. This stand alone choral version of No.16 from "Shadow and Light" maintains the key aspect of the orchestral version: the unflinching piano ostinato. The violin and left hand piano parts provide original orchestral lines, while singers stand in for the string section at rehearsal letter "B" and again at "D".

For their April 2016 world premiere performance of "Shadow and Light," Eugene Vocal Arts Chamber Choir was named winner of The American Prize: Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music, 2016-17 (community division.) That premiere was met with accolades from audience, reviewers and from the granting foundation. Despite the tragic nature of the subject, chorus members, soloists and orchestra members found "Shadow and Light" a joy to perform. Commissioning Conductor Dr. Diane Retallack has remarked: "This is truly a masterwork and deserves a place in the standard choral repertory." —Joan Szymko

Learn more about "Shadow and Light" at joanszymko.com

Commissioned by the Eugene Concert Choir for Eugene Vocal Arts and Eugene Concert Orchestra,
Dr. Diane Retallack, Artistic Director and Conductor

No. 16, Shadow and Light

Love Bears All Things

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

Joan Szymko

♩=44 Misura *molto legato e sostenuto*

Violin *ostinato to be fluid, steadfast, supportive, throughout* *mp*

Piano *pp* *p* *simile*
pedal judiciously

3

Vln. *6*

Pno. *8va* *mp*

5

Vln. *6*

Pno. *8va* *6*

7 **Tutti Unison**

S
A
T
B *mp* *molto legato e sostenuto* *mp*

Love bears all things be - lieves all

Pno. *6* *mp*

S
A
T
B

9 *mp* things, *p* hopes all things en - dures all

Vln. *pp* *p* 3 3

Pno. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

11 *mp* things. Love bears all

Sop
Ten

Vln. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Pno. *mp*

13 *Tutti mf* things be - lieves all things, hopes all things...

T
B *Tutti mf* things be - lieves all things, hopes all things...

Vln. *mf* *cresc.* 3 3

Pno. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *mf* *mf*

for perusal only

16 *mf* Love bears all things *dim.* *mp* be - lieves all

S A Love all

T B Love all

Vln. *f* 3 3 3 *mf* 3 3

Pno. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *mp*

8vb

18 things, hopes all things en - dures all

S A Unison *mp*

T B Unison *mp*

Vln. *mf*

Pno. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 3 3 3

20 things. Love nev - er fails. *mf*

S A *dim.* *p* *mf*

T B *dim.* *p* *mf*

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Pno. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *ostinato sempre mp*

mf *mp*

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22 **B**

S
A

mp

Hmm

T
B

mp

Hmm

Vln.

mp *mf* *mp*

Pno.

p *mp*

26

S
A

p *mp*

Ah

T
B

mp

Ah

Vln.

mp *mf* *mp*

Pno.

mf

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30 **C** *mf*
S A Love bears all things
T B Love bears all things
Vln. *mf*
Pno. **C** *mf*
34 Tenor solo end T. solo
solo 8 Love be - lieves all things.
mf be - lieves all things.
f Love be - lieves all things.
Pno. *poco a poco cresc.*

38 Sop. solo *mf* *f* end S. solo

Solo Love hopes all things,

S A Love hopes all things, Altos en-dures all

T B Love hopes all things,

Pno. *f* *mf* Red. *

42 *mp* Tutti S/A **D** *ppp* Ah

T B *p* *mp* Love bears all

Vln. *p* *mp*

Pno. *dim.* *p* **D**

44 *p*

S
A [ah]

T
B things be - lieves all things, hopes all

Vln.

Pno.

46 *mp*

S
A [ah]

T
B things en - dures all things.

Vln.

Pno.

48 T / S soli, *mp*

soli Love bears all things be - lieves all

S
A Tutti S/A *mp*
Ah

Vln. *mp*

Pno.

for perusal only

50 *mf*

Soli things, hopes all things

S A

Vln.

Pno.

mp *mf*

52 *f* end soli, join unison choir at M55

Soli Love.

S A *mf* Love bears all things *dim.* *mp* be - lieves all

T B *mf* Love bears all things *dim.* *mp* be - lieves all

Vln. *f* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mf*

54

S
A

T
B

Vln.

Pno.

p *Tutti Unison* *mp* *mp*

things, hopes all things en - dures all

things, hopes all things en - dures all

56

S
A

T
B

Vln.

Pno.

p *p* *mf* *mp* *p*

things. Love nev - er fails.

thin Love nev - er fails.

59

S
A

T
B

Vln.

Pno.

62 **E**

Sop soloist *mp*

Tutti *pp*

Nev - er

Nev -

Ten soloist *mp*

Tutti *pp*

Nev - er

Nev -

Vln.

p *pp*

E

Pno.

dim. *p* *pp*

66

- er

fails.

- er

fails.

Vln.

Pno.

pp *pp*

Ped.