

JOAN SZYMKO

# Invitation to the Dance

for  
SATB CHORUS  
on mystical poetry of  
HAFIZ  
as interpreted by  
Daniel Ladinsky



### JOAN SZYMKO

Joan Szymko (b.1957) is widely regarded as an outstanding choral composer in North America today. Her works consistently display a discerning, stirring marriage of words and music. The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)

recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in North America by selecting her as a recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission (2010). Notably, her music has been sung on stage or in sessions at every national ACDA conference since 2003. A dynamic conductor, Joan has led choirs in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years. As a visiting artist, Szymko workshops her compositions with choirs in academic and festival setting in the US and abroad. As a resident composer and performer with Portland's Do Jump! Movement Theater, she created underscoring for major touring productions, earning praise from the New York Times for her "ethereal vocal music." For more about Joan Szymko and to explore her catalog of over 150 choral works, visit her website: [www.joanszymko.com](http://www.joanszymko.com)

### DANIEL LADINSKY & HAFIZ

Poet Daniel Ladinsky (1948 -) is most well known as a renderer of mystical poetry, in particular that of 14th c. Persian Sufi mystic Hafiz. The Sufis regard the poetry of Hafiz as a perfect expression of the human experience of divine love. Hafiz's *ghazals* (short sonnet length love songs) are still extremely popular throughout the Near East. Working primarily from an 1891 English translation by H.W. Clarke, Ladinsky has sought to make accessible to modern day readers the profundity of Hafiz's poetry by reflecting/releasing the *spirit* of Hafiz. In Ladinsky's words: "the spirit of tenderness and compassion, of great exuberance, joy and laughter, of ecstatic love and fervent longing for his Beloved, and wonder and delight at the divine splendor of the universe.

### NOTES

"Invitation to Dance" was composed along with seven other works during a 10 week period over the summer of 2002, to be premiered in an all-Szymko program entitled a "A Choral Conspiracy" — mixed chorus settings of mystical poets, featuring unconventional accompanying forces. Colorful, playful, rhythmic and tender, like Ladinsky, I sought to evoke the spirit of Hafiz with these works. The three short pieces work together creating an arc toward joy. The bass/bottle accompaniment of "Where is the Door to the Tavern" may be substituted with accordion. Dance percussion for No.3 may be replaced by bodhrán.— Joan Szymko

### INVITATION TO THE DANCE

#### No.1

Where is the door to the tavern?  
Where is the door to God?  
In the sound of a barking dog  
In the ring of a hammer  
In a drop of rain  
In the face of everyone I see.

#### No.2

I think we are frightened  
every moment of our lives  
Until we  
Know  
Him

#### No.3

Every child has known God,  
Not the God of names,  
Not the God of don'ts,  
Not the God who ever does  
Anything weird,  
But the God who knows only four words.  
And keeps repeating them, saying:  
"Come dance with Me."  
Come  
Dance.

# Invitation to the Dance

## 1. Where is the Door to the Tavern?

HAFIZ

adapted/translated by Daniel Ladinsky

JOAN SZYMKO

*Freely*

A. Solo **f**

Raucous  
♩ = 94 misura

Where is the door to the tavern?

Pitched bottles (3)

Contrabass

pizz.

mf

mf

(may substitute bottles and Cb with an accordion)

S. ♩ = 94 misura  
Where is the door

A. Tutti **mf**  
Where is the door

T. ♩ = 94 misura  
Where is the door

B. ♩ = 94 misura  
Where's the door to the

**p**

**p**

**p**

S. *mp*  
to the ta - vern?  
A.  
to the ta - vern?  
T. *mp*  
Where is the door\_ Where  
B. *mp* *p* *mp*  
ta - vern? Where's the door to the ta - vern? Where's the door to the

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S. *mf*  
Where is the door\_ to God?  
A.  
Where is the door\_ to God?  
T. *mf*  
is the door\_ Where is the door\_ Where is the door  
B. *mf* *mp* *mf*  
ta - vern? Where's the door to the ta - vern? Where's the door to God?  
Piano accompaniment staff

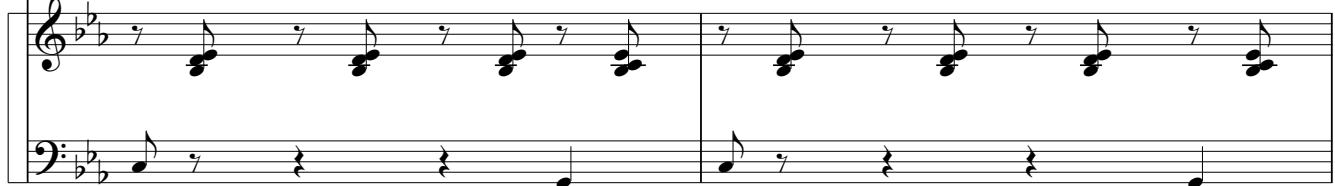
*II*

S. *mf* Where is the door to God? *f* Where is  
A. *f* Where is the door  
T. *f* Where is the door Where  
B. *f* Where's the door to God? Where's the door to God? Where's the door to the ta - vern?

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*13*

S. the door to God? *mf*  
A. — to the ta - vern? *mf*  
T. *mf* is the door\_ Where is the door\_ Where is the door?  
B. *mf* Where's the door to the ta - vern? Where's the door to God Where's the door to God?



15 (1-3 sopranos) like a YAPPING dog *mf*

S. *mp* bark , poco a poco cresc.

A. in the sound of the bark - ing dog, in the sound of the bark - ing dog, in the sound of the

T. *mp* poco a poco cresc.

B. In the sound of the bark - ing dog, in the sound of the

*mp* bark bark

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17 *mp* bark *mp* bark *mp* bark *mp* bark

S. bark - ing dog, bark - ing

A. bark - ing dog, in the sound of the bark - ing bark - ing bark - ing dog, bark - ing bark - ing dog,

T. *poco marcato mp* bark - ing dog bark - ing dog bark - ing dog bark - ing dog bark - ing

B. *mf* bark *mp* bark *mf* bark bark

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*ff* *Broadly, sostenuto*

S. ham - mer In the face of Ev'-ry - one I see

A. In a drop of *ff* In the face of Ev'-ry - one I see

A. ham - mer In the face of Ev'-ry - one I see

T. ham - mer In the face of Ev'-ry - one I see

B. ham - mer In the face of Ev'-ry - one I see

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*mf* *Lilting* *ff* *f*

S. — Where is the door? —

A. — *mf* Where's the door to the ta - vern? Where's the door to God?

T. — *mf* — Where is the door

B. *f* — *mf* Where is the door to the ta -

—

32

S. *mp*  
Where's the door to God?

A. *p*  
Where is the door?

T. *mp*  
to the ta - vern?

B. *p*  
vern? Where is the door

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S. *p*  
Where's the door to God? *pp* *ppp* Where's the door to God?

A. *ppp*  
to God?

T. *p*  
Where's the door to the ta - vern? *pp* Where's the door to God?

B. *pp*  
Where's the door to God?

# Invitation to the Dance

# Hafiz

translated by Daniel Ladinsky

JOAN SZYMKO

*S. A. T. B.*

*p* *mp* *p* *dynamics simile*

*Mm* *Mm*

*p* *mp* *p* *dynamics simile*

*Mm* *Mm*

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*mp* > *p* > *p* dynamics simile

S.

A.

T.

B.

Mm Mm Mm Mm

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26

S. *mp*  
Mm

A. *f*  
*mp* *mf*  
fright-en ed I think we are fright-en ed, we are fright-en ed

T. *mp*  
Mm

B. *mp*  
Mm

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31

S. Mm

A. *f* *mf* *f*  
ened ev-ery Mo-ment ev-ery mo- ment of our lives

T. *mf*  
Mm

B. Mm

36

S. *p*

A. *mp* Un - til

T. *p* *mp* *p* Mm

B. *p* Mm

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42

S. *mp* *pp* Mm

A. *mp* *mf* un - til we Know Him.

T. *mp* *pp* Mm

B. *mp* *pp* Mm

## Invitation to the Dance

### 3.Every Child Has Known God

HAFIZ

translated/adapted by David Ladinsky

JOAN SZYMKO

♩. = 94 Playfully

Soloist 1

Soloist 2

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

9 Soloist 1

A

*mf*

Ev - ery child has known God\_\_\_\_\_

S. *div.* *f* *mp* La la la la

A. *f* *mp* La la la la, La la

T. *f* *mp* La la la la La la

B. *f* *mp* La la la La la La la

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15

Ev - ery child\_\_\_\_\_

S. La la la la

A. la La la la, La la la

T. 8 la la La la la la La la la la

B. la la

20

Soprano (S.)

Alto (A.)

Tenor (T.)

Bass (B.)

25

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**B**

Soprano (S.)

Alto (A.)

Tenor (T.)

Bass (B.)

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46

S. *mp* but the God *mf* who on - ly knows four words

A. knows four words *mf* who on - ly knows four words who on - ly knows four words

T. *mf* <sup>8</sup> knows four words who on - ly knows four words But the God,

B. *mp* *mf* but the God But the God,

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53 Soloist 1 *f*

**D** CUE DANCER

S. And keeps re - peat - ing them, *f* la la la la la la la la

A. And keeps re - peat - ing them, *f* La la la la la la la la

T. <sup>8</sup> And keeps re - peat - ing them, *f* La la la la la la la la

B. And keeps re - peat - ing them, *f* La la la la la la la la

59 [Soloist 1]

Say - ing: \_\_\_\_\_

S. la la!

A. la la!

T. 8 la la la la la la la la la la!

B. la la la la la la la la la la!

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"Come, dance with me."

S. La la \_\_\_\_\_ La la \_\_\_\_\_ La la \_\_\_\_\_

A. La la \_\_\_\_\_ la la la, La la la La la \_\_\_\_\_

T. 8 La la

B. La la La la La la La la La la

69 **E**

Soloist 2

S.

A.

T.

B.

74

Come dance\_ with me\_\_\_\_\_ Come dance\_ with Me."\_\_\_\_\_  
with Me.\_\_\_\_\_ "Come\_ dance,\_\_\_\_\_ with\_\_\_\_\_

S.

A.

T.

B.

79

S. — Me."

A.

T.

B.

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84

S. sub **p** mp

A. sub **p** mp

T. sub **p** mp

B. sub **p** mp

89 *mf*

S. La la la La la La la la la la

A. La la la la la la la

T. *mf* la la la La la la la la

B. *mf* la la la La la la la la

91 **F** *f* *mp* *mf*

S. La! La! La la la la la la la la

A. *f* *mp* *mf* La! La! La la la la la la la la

T. *f* *mp* *mf* La! La! La la la la la la la la la

B. *f* *mp* *mf* La! La! La la la la la la la la la

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95 *f*

S. La la

A. La la

T. *f* *mp* La la

B. *f* *mp* La la

99

S.      *mf*      *mp*      *>*      *mf*      *f*  
 la La la      la La la      la La la      La La!  
 A.      *mf*      *mp*      *>*      *mf*      *f*  
 la La la      la La la      la La la      La La!  
 T.      *mf*      *mp*      *>*      *mf*      *f*  
 8      la La la      la La la      la La la      La La!  
 B.      *mf*      *mp*      *>*      *mf*      *f*  
 la La la      la La la      la La la      La La!

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105

Soloist 1      *f* **G**      "Come      Dance!"      Come  
 S.      *ff*      *mf*  
 La!      La la      La la  
 A.      *ff*      *mf*  
 La!      La la la la la,      La la la  
 T.      *ff*      *mf*  
 8      La!      La la la la la la  
 B.      *ff*      *mf*  
 La!      La la      La la      La la la la

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120 H

Soloist 1

Soloist 2

S.

A.

T.

B.

125

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"Come dance with me. Come dance,  
Ev - ery Child,

S.

A.

T.

B.

130

Come dance with me.  
Come dance with me.  
La la La la  
La la la la la la la la

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134

Dance!  
Dance!  
Dance! Dance! Come Dance! Come Dance! Dance!  
Dance! Dance! Come Dance! Come Dance! Dance!  
Dance! Dance! Come Dance! Come Dance! Dance!  
Dance! Dance! Come Dance! Come Dance! Dance!

139

S. Come Dance!— Come Dance!— Dance!

A. Come Dance!— Come Dance!— Dance!

T. 8 Come Dance!— Come Dance!— Dance!

B. Come Dance!— Come Dance!— Dance!

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143

S. Dance! ff Dance! fff

A. Dance! ff Dance! fff

T. 8 Dance! ff Dance! fff

B. Dance! ff Dance! fff