

J O A N S Z Y M K O

# A Winter Ride

setting of a poem by  
poem by Amy Lowell

for  
SATB CHORUS  
& piano



### AMY LOWELL (18974-1925)

"During a career that spanned just over a dozen years, she wrote and published over 650 poems, yet scholars cite Lowell's tireless efforts to awaken American readers to contemporary trends in poetry as her more influential contribution to literary history. "Poet, propagandist, lecturer, translator, biographer, critic . . . her verve is almost as remarkable as her verse," opined poet Louis Untermeyer in his 1923 work *American Poetry since 1900*. A collection of Lowell's work, published posthumously as *What's O'Clock?*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1926." (©The Poetry Foundation)

Lowell was an early proponent of "free verse" poetry. She was also influenced by and championed the imagist school of poetry. Consequently her poems have a more contemporary feel than a lot of early 20th century poetry. Untermeyer also remarked about Lowell: "She was upon the surface of things a Lowell, a New Englander and a spinster. But inside everything was molten like the core of the earth... Given one more gram of emotion, Amy Lowell would have burst into flame and been consumed to cinders."

### A Winter Ride

by Amy Lowell

*Who shall declare the joy of the running!  
Who shall tell of the pleasures of flight!  
Springing and spurning the tufts of wild heather,  
Sweeping, wide-winged, through the blue  
dome of light.  
Everything mortal has moments immortal,  
Swift and God-gifted, immeasurably bright.  
So with the stretch of the white road before me,  
Shining snow crystals rainbowed by the sun,  
Fields that are white, stained with long, cool,  
blue shadows,  
Strong with the strength of my horse as we run.  
Joy in the touch of the wind and the sunlight!  
Joy! With the vigorous earth I am one.*

### FROM THE COMPOSER

Poet Amy Lowell captures the rush, the exhilaration of riding a horse through a snowy field on a bright, brisk winter day. There are those experiences, often while out in nature or in the wild, when physical boundaries disappear and one loses oneself in a joyful, timeless realization of oneness. Lowell's "A Winter Ride" is such an experience! It is to be sung with joyful abandon. Tempo and dynamic instructions are explicit and best be followed.

### JOAN SZYMKO

Joan Szymko's choral music is regularly performed at national and international choral festivals, competitions and conferences. While using a familiar music vocabulary, she creates works that are nonetheless fresh and engaging. The American Choral Director's Association recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as a recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. Szymko lives and works in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. A dynamic conductor, she has served on the choral music faculty of Portland State University and has led Aurora Chorus as Artistic Director since 1993. As a visiting artist, Szymko workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad. For more info, visit [www.joanszymko.com](http://www.joanszymko.com)

for Aurora Chorus, December 2018

# A Winter Ride

Amy Lowell ( 1874-1925)

Joan Szymko  
ASCAP

**Vivo** ♩.=68

*mf* *ringing*

piano

*with pedal, but not too "wet"*  
*left hand non-legto, somewhat accented*

5 *simile*

*mp* *mf*

for perusal only

9 *f*

Who shall de-clare the joy of the run-ning

*f*

Who shall de-clare the joy of the run-ning

12

S A *mf* Who shall tell of the pleasures of *f* flight!

T B

15

S A *mf* Sweep-ing, wide winged, through the blue dome of

T Spring-ing and spurn-ing the tufts of wild hea-ther, Sweep-ing, wide winged, through the blue dome of

B *mf* Sweep-ing, wide winged, through the blue dome of

for perusal only

18

S A *dim.* light.

T *dim.* light.

B *dim.* light.

bring out melody

*mp* *mp*

## Tutti Unison

21 *legato*

S *p* *mf* *mp*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal

T *legato* *p* *mf* *mp*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal

B *legato* *p* *mf* *mp*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal

*p* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

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24 *mf* *rit.*

S *mf*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal, \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal, \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf*  
Ev - ery - thing mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* *rit.*

27 **Meno mosso**  $\text{♩} = 58$  *mp* *mf* *f* *div.* **Tempo primo**

S  
Swift and God gift-ed, im - mea - sura - bly bright.

A  
Swift and God gift-ed, im - mea - sura - bly bright.

T  
Swift and God gift-ed, im - mea - sura - bly bright.

B  
Swift and God gift-ed, im - mea - sura - bly bright.

**Meno mosso**  $\text{♩} = 58$  *mp* *mf* *f* **Tempo primo**

*for perusal only*

31

*f* *mf*

35

*f*

38 Sop *mf*

S So with the stretch of the white road be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

Alto *mf*

A So with the stretch of the white road be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

42

S \_\_\_\_\_ by the sun. \_\_\_\_\_

A Shin-ing snow\_ cry stals\_\_ rain-bowed\_ by the sun. \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf* 8 Shin-ing snow\_ cry stals\_\_ rain-bowed\_ by the sun. \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf* Shin- ing snow\_\_ cry- stals\_ rain -bowed\_\_ by the sun. \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

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52 *mf* *f*

S Strong with the strength of my horse, Strong with the strength of my horse as we run, we

A Strong with the strength of my horse as we run, we

T *mf* *f* Strong with the strength of my horse, Strong with the strength of my horse as we run, we

B Strong with the strength of my horse as we run, we

*for perusal only*

56

S run, as we run.

A run, as we run.

T run, as we run.

B run, as we run.

60

Tenor *f*

Joy in the touch of the wind and the sun - light!

Bass *f*

Joy in the touch of the wind and the sun - light!

64

S *f*

Joy! With the vi - gor - ous earth,

A *f*

Joy! With the vi - gor - ous earth,

T

B

67

Musical score for measures 67-69. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Joy! With the vi - gor-ous earth, Joy!". The piano part includes a treble and bass clef with various chords and melodic lines. Dynamics include *mf*.

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70

Musical score for measures 70-72. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!". The piano part includes a treble and bass clef with various chords and melodic lines. Dynamics include *mf* and *div.*

73 *f* Joy! With the vi-gor-ous earth I am one. *ff*

74 *f* Joy! With the vi-gor-ous earth I am one. *ff*

75 *f* Joy! With the vi-gor-ous earth I am one. *ff*

76 *f* Joy! With the vi-gor-ous earth I am one. *ff*

*f* *ff*

77

80

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