

JS-110 / Invincible / SSAA, piano / Szymko / dur: 4'15"

JOAN SZYMKO

"in the midst of winter I found within me an invincible summer"

INVINCIBLE

for
ssaa chorus
&
piano



Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's choral music is regularly performed at regional, national and international choral festivals, competitions and conferences. Utilizing a familiar music vocabulary, she creates works that are nonetheless fresh and engaging; compelling and inspiring, her text selections are as notable as her music. Szymko has been commissioned by every type of choral ensemble and is widely recognized as a foremost American composer of exceptional repertoire for women's choir. The American Choral Director's Association 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.

Joan Szymko lives and works in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Since 1995 she has enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Portland based DoJump! Movement Theater, creating musical underscoring for major touring productions. A dynamic conductor, she has served on the choral music faculty of Portland State University (2013-15) and led Aurora Chorus (Portland) as Artistic Director from 1993-2020. 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 see: www.joanszymko.com.

INVINCIBLE

- anon. and Albert Camus*

*In the midst of hate, I found there was
within me, an invincible love.
In the midst of tears, I found there was
within me, an invincible smile.
In the midst of chaos, I found there was
within me, an invincible calm.*

*I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter,
I found there was within me
an invincible summer.
Invincible calm, invincible smile—
Invincible love.*

*No matter how hard the world
pushes against me, I know
There's something stronger,
something better, something
there within me pushing back—
An invincible summer.
Invincible calm, invincible smile—
Invincible love.*

* "Albert Camus is widely considered as the author of this text, but he is not. Nevertheless, he is surely the author of the isolated sentence '*in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.*' It appears in *Return to Tipasa*, a lyrical essay contained in the 1954 book *Summer (L'Été)*. It seems, then, that someone took this original quote and extended it, maybe trying to reach a higher level of sentimentalism and poetalness."

Reference: "The noble art of misquoting Camus"
<http://www.academia.edu/>

from the COMPOSER

I wrote *Invincible* over the summer of 2021 under the shadow of a persistent pandemic, devastating climate change events and an ever increasing and depressing incivility in the socio-political culture of the United States. I found great solace and encouragement in this text and found within me, if not an invincible calm, an emergence of joy within the creative act of composing. My hope is that those singing this work find joy in performing it.

*Commissioned by the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association, Stephania Abell, President.
Dedicated to the 2021 OkMEA All-State Treble Chorus, Stephanie Keegan-Moring, All-State Chair.
Premiered by the 2022 OkMEA All-State Treble Chorus, Teresa Pointer, All-State Chair.*

INVINCIBLE

Anonymous &
Albert Camus* (1913-1960)

Joan Szymko

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*lyric adapted by the composer from an anonymous expansion on a quote by Albert Camus from the essay, *Return to Tipasa* in the book, 'Ete' (1954)

4 10 *p* Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 80$ div. *poco accel.*

S. I found there was with - in me, I found with -

S. I found there was with - in me, I found with -

A. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* I found there was with - in me, I found there was with -

A. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* tears, I found there was, with - in me, I found there was, with -

Pno. 10 Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 80$ *poco accel.*

cresc. poco a poco

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

14 *mf* A tempo

S. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In -

S. in me, in - vin - ci - ble smile. In -

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In - vin - ci - ble, in -

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In - vin - ci - ble, in -

Pno. 14 A tempo

mf

8 *8* *3*

5 18

S. vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

S. vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

A. vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

A. vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

18

Pno. cresc.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Poco più mosso

22

S. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm, an in -

S. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm, an in -

A. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm,

A. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm,

poco rit. mp Tempo primo

22

Pno.

mf

poco rit.

Tempo primo

mp

26

Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 58$

S. vin - ci - ble calm,

A. an in-vin-ci - ble calm,

Pno.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

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FOR PERUSAL ONLY

46

S. Love! _____ love! _____ in-vin - ci - ble

S. Love! _____ love! _____ in-vin - ci - ble

A. Love! _____ love! _____ in-vin - ci - ble

A. Love! _____ love! _____ in-vin - ci - ble

Pno.

9

49

S. love!

S. love!

A. love!

A. love!

Pno.

bring out the appoggiatura feel

steady in the bass

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

52

f

div.

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

f

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

f

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

f

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

52

Pno.

10

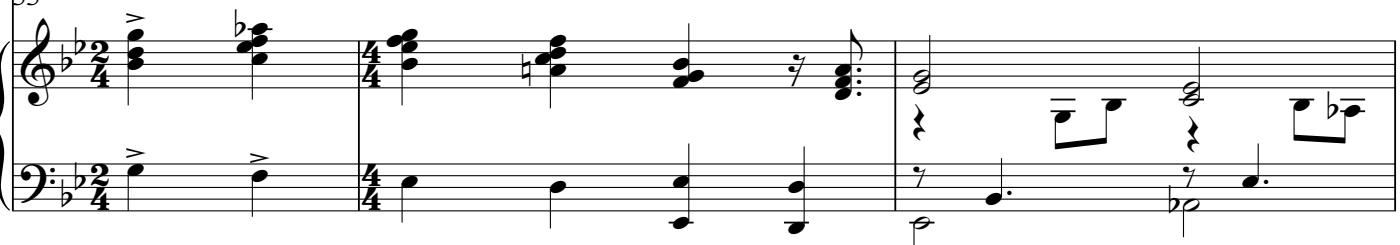
55

S. 

S. 

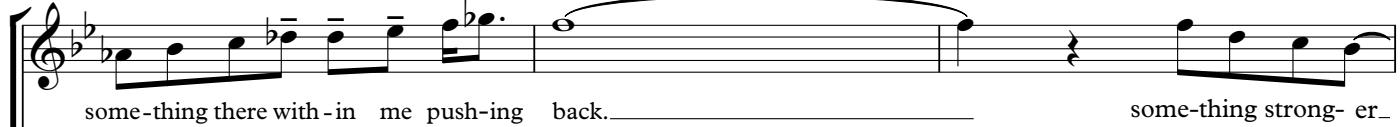
A. 

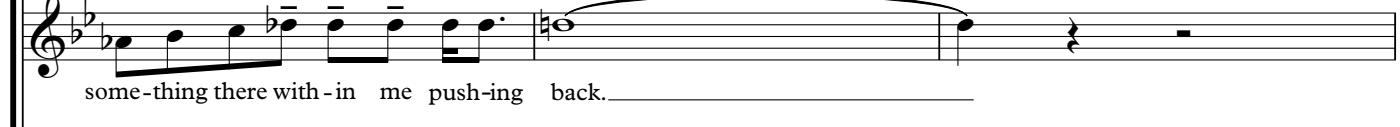
A. 

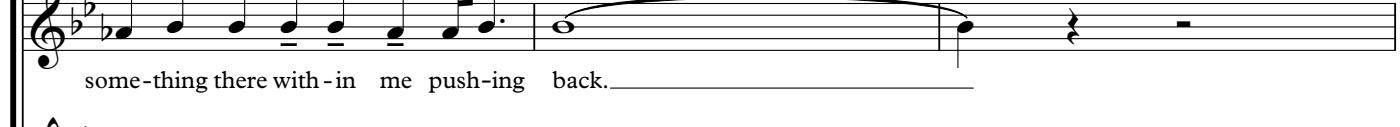
Pno. 

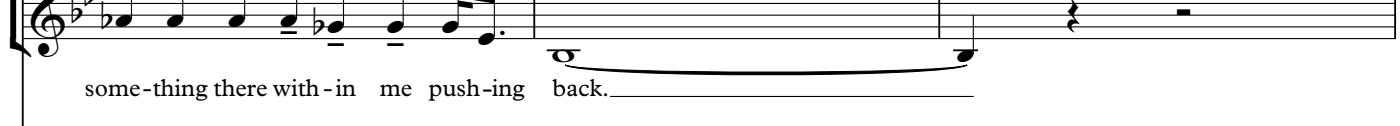
FOR PERUSAL ONLY

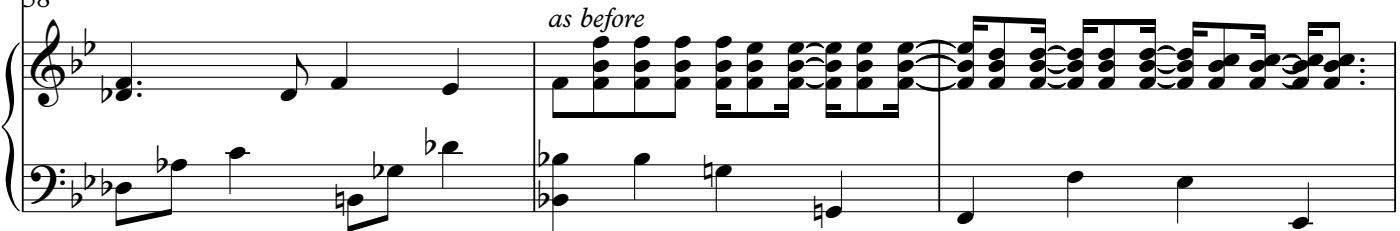
58

S. 

S. 

A. 

A. 

Pno. 

11 61

10

Soprano (S.) part:

Some-thing there with - in me push - ing back.

Alto (A.) part:

Some-thing bet - ter _____
push - ing back.

Piano (Pno.) part:

Some-thing there with - in me push - ing back.

61

Pno. (Piano) part:

Music for piano, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note chords and bass notes.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

63

subito FOR PERUSAL ONLY

三

A musical score showing two staves. The top staff uses a common time signature (indicated by 'C') and has a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains six measures of music, ending with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The bottom staff uses a common time signature (indicated by 'C') and has a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). It contains three measures of music, ending with a single bar line.

1

Am III - VIII - er-Sie sum - hier, _____

1

A musical score page showing measures 1 through 10. The score consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (F) and includes a dynamic marking (D) above the staff. Measures 2-4 show a descending eighth-note pattern. Measures 5-6 show a descending sixteenth-note pattern. Measures 7-8 show a descending eighth-note pattern. Measures 9-10 show a descending sixteenth-note pattern.

1

An in - vin - ci - ble sum - mer, _____ in -

1

A musical score page showing measures 33-35. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef (G-clef) and the bottom staff is for the bass clef (F-clef). Measure 33 starts with a rest followed by a bass note. Measures 34 and 35 show a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with eighth-note patterns.

1

in - vin - ci - ble calm, in -

1

11

in - vin - ci - ble calm, in -

63

Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

1

no. }

12 67

S. *vin - ci - ble smile, _____ in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in -*

S. *vin - ci - ble smile, _____ in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in -*

A. *vin - ci - ble smile, _____ in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in -*

A. *vin - ci - ble smile, _____ in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in -*

Pno. *mf* *f*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

74

S. *f* — *ff* **molto rall.** — // **A tempo**

In-vin-ci-ble love! —

S. *f* — *ff* //

In-vin-ci-ble love! —

A. *f* — *ff* //

In-vin-ci-ble love! —

A. *f* — *ff* //

In-vin-ci-ble love! —

74

Pno. { *molto rall.* — // **A tempo**

FOR PERUSAL ONLY;

simile

dim. // ***mf***

vi *8vb*

78

S. *mp* — *niente* ***p*** —

Love. — Love. —

A. — ***p*** — *niente* ***p*** —

Love. — Love. —

Pno. { ***p*** ***mp*** ***pp*** ***pp***