

J O A N S Z Y M K O

Make Ready Your Beauty

a choral setting on a poem

by

ELSA GIDLOW



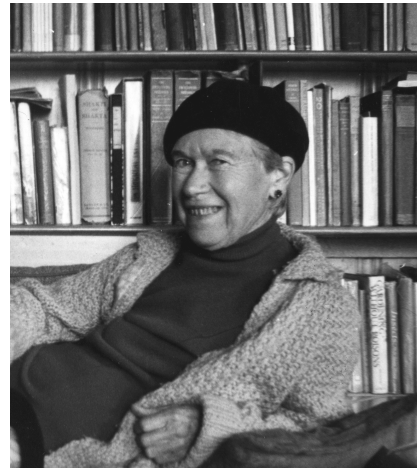
JOAN SZYMKO

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 settings 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." Szymko's catalog of over 150 choral works can be explored on her website: www.joanszymko.com

ELSA GIDLOW (1898-1986)

"Elsa Gidlow was a British-born, Canadian-raised, American poet, freelance journalist, philosopher. Elsa triumphed over childhood poverty, lack of formal education, and family tragedy to become a pioneering lesbian poet, bohemian free spirit, spiritual mystic, and an apostle of Eastern philosophies. By being true to her nature, she remained decades ahead of her time. She wrote *On A Grey Thread* (1923), the first volume of openly lesbian love poetry published in North America, when she was 23. In the 1950s, Gidlow helped found a bohemian community in Marin County, California. The community became known as Druid Heights, the name she had given to her land.

In 1962 she, along with Alan Watts, formed the Society of Comparative Philosophy. She provided Alan a place to live and write during the last years of his life. Elsa was the author of thirteen books and appeared as herself in the documentary film, *Word Is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives* (1977). Completed just before her death, her autobiography, *Elsa, I Come with My Songs* (1986), recounts eight decades of her life story." —"Elsa Gidlow & Druid Heights" www.poet-warrior.com



ELSA GIDLOW

I Come With My Songs (1924)

*World, I come with my songs;
I come, singing.
If indeed you have wrongs
I come to undo them.*

*Make ready your terrible beauty.
I come with my songs.
It shall be my dear duty
To praise and adore you.*

*Do you hear my heart from afar
Beating high like a drum?
You must hear it even where you are
Announcing my coming.*

*I come in awe to your feet
A lover, drunk
With the fame of your face; O, sweet,
I bring you my dreams.*

*Make ready your beauty. I come
To praise you with words
That must shake your streets like a drum.
Make ready your beauty.*

Commissioned by and for Pride Chorus Houston
for "Herstory"
International Women's Day 2025

Make Ready Your Beauty

Elsa Gidlow (1898-1986)
I Come With My Songs (1924)

Joan Szymko

for rehearsal only

$\text{♩} = 80$

S. *mf* World, I come with my songs; I come with my songs; *f* World. I

A. *mf* World, I come with my songs; I com with my songs; *f* World. I

T. *mf* World, I come with my songs; I come with my songs; *f* World. I

B. *mf* World, I come I come World. I

Pno. *f*

5

S. *mp*
come with my songs; I come with my songs;— World, I come sing-ing._

A. *mp*
come with my songs; I come with my songs;— World, I come sing-ing._

T. *mp*
come with my songs; I come with my songs;— World, I come sing-ing._

B. *mp*
come with my songs; I come with my songs;— World, I come sing-ing._

Pno.

9

S. *mf*
World, I come, sing-ing_ sing-ing._

A. *mf*
World, I come, sing-ing_ sing-ing._

T. *mf*
World, I come, sing-ing_ sing-ing._

B. *mf*
World, I come, sing-ing_ sing-ing._

Pno.

8^{va}

12 $\text{♩} = 68$ *mp*

S. World, If in-deed you have wrongs I come to un -

A. World, If in-deed you have wrongs I come to un -

T. $\text{♩} = 68$

B. $\text{♩} = 68$

Pno. *mp*

14 *mf* *mp*

S. do them. I come to un - do them.

A. do them. I come to un - do them.

T. *mp*

B. *mp*

Pno. *mf*

for perusal only

16 *mf* *f*

S. World, If in-deed you have wrongs I come to un -

A. World, If in-deed you have wrongs I come to un -

T. World, If in-deed you have wrongs un -

B. World, If in-deed you have wrongs I come to un -

Pno. *mf* *f*

rit.

18 *mf* *mp* *p* ♩ = 50

S. do them, I come to un - do them. Make rea - dy your ter - ri - ble

A. do them, un - do them. Make rea - dy your ter - ri - ble

T. do them, un - do them. Make rea - dy your ter - ri - ble

B. do them, un - do them.

Pno. *mf* *mp* ♩ = 50

rit.

for perusal only

For copyright protection,
this page has been left blank.

*Fervently,
poco rubato*

29

p *mp*

S. songs. It shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a -

A. songs. It shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a -

T. songs. It shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a -

B. songs. It shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a -

Pno.

32

mf *mp* *p* //

S. dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, a - dore you.

mf *mp* *p* //

A. dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you, a - dore you.

mf *p* //

T. dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you,

mf *p* //

B. dore you, it shall be my du-ty to praise and a - dore you,

Pno.

35

S. *p* *mp* *p* *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far Beat-ing high like a drum?

A. *p* *mp* *p* *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far Beat-ing high like a drum?

T. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far

B. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far

Pno. *p*
Ped.

37

S. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far Beat-ing high like a dru[m]?

A. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far Beat-ing high like a drum?

T. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far

B. *mf*
Do you hear my heart_ from a - far

Pno. *mp*

39

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

Do you hear my heart?_ from a - far

Do you hear my heart?

Do you hear my heart?

Do you hear my heart?

You must hear it

You must hear it

You must hear it

You must hear it

for perusal only

43 *mf* *mp* 11

S. e - ven where you are An - noun - cing my com - ing, an -

A. e - ven where you are An - noun - cing my com - ing, an -

T. e - ven where you are An - noun - cing my com - ing, an -

B. where you are an - noun - cing my com - ing an -

Pno. *mf* *mp*

46 *mf* *f* *mf* *rit.* *Meno mosso* ♩=60

S. nounc-ing my com - ing I come in awe to your feet A lov - er, —

A. nounc-ing my com - ing I come in awe A lov - er

T. nounc-ing my com - ing I come in awe to your feet

B. nounc-ing my com - ing. I come in awe A lov - er

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf* *rit.* *Meno mosso* ♩=60

49

S. drunk_ With the fame of your face; O sweet,

A. drunk_ With the fame of your face; O sweet,

T. drunk_ fame of your face; O sweet, O

B. drunk_ fame of your face; O

Pno.

52

accel.

S. O sweet, O sweet,

A. O sweet, O sweet,

T. sweet, O sweet, I bring you my

B. sweet,

Pno.

accel.

(8)

mf

for perusal only

For copyright protection,
this page has been left blank.

59 *mp*

S. beau-ty, Make rea - dy your beau-ty, Make rea-dy your beau-ty, Make rea - dy your beau-ty. I come to

A. beau-ty, Make rea-dy your beau-ty, Make rea-dy your beau-ty, Make rea - dy your beau-ty. I come to

T. dreams, _____ to praise and a - dore you. Make rea - dy I come to

B. dreams _____ and my songs _____ a - dore you. Make rea - dy I come to

Pno.

61 *mf* *poco accel.*

S. praise you with words, I come to praise you,

A. praise you with words, I come to praise you, I come to

T. praise with words, I come to praise you,

B. praise you with words, I come to praise you, I come to

Pno. *mf* *poco accel.*

3 3 3 3

Più mosso

15

$\text{♩} = 78$

64

f

S. praise you with words that must shake your streets like a drum

A. praise you with words that must shake your streets like a drum

T. praise you with words that must shake your streets like a drum

B. praise you with words shake your streets like a

Pno. **f**

Più mosso

$\text{♩} = 78$

67

S. words that must shake your streets like a drum

A. words that must shake your streets like a drum

T. words that shake your streets must shake your streets like a drum like a like a

B. drum I come with words that shake your streets like a

Pno.

for perusal only

69 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *ff*

S. *ff*
Make rea-dy! Make rea-dy your beau - ty. _____ Make rea - dy! Make rea-dy your

S/A *ff*
Make read- y! _____ your beau - ty _____

A. *ff*
Make rea-dy! Make rea-dy your beau - ty. _____ Make rea - dy! Make rea-dy your

T. *ff*
drum. _____ a drum _____ like a drum. _____ I

B. *ff*
drum. _____ a drum _____ like a drum. _____ I

Pno. *ff*

72 **Meno mosso**

S. *f* beau - ty, your beau-ty, I come with my

S/A your beau - ty, *f* Make rea- dy I come with my

A. beau - ty, Make rea- dy I come with my

T. come I come.

B. come I come.

Pno. *f* *Red.*

75

S. songs. I come with my words, I come with my

A. songs. I come with my words, I come with my

T. *f* I bring you my dreams, I come with my words, I come with my

B. *f* I bring you my dreams, I come with my words, I come with my

Pno.

78 $\text{♩} = 80$

S. *f* songs. World, I come with my songs; World, I come with my songs.

A. *f* songs. World, I come with my songs; World, I come with my songs.

T. *f* songs. World, I come with my songs; World, I come with my songs.

B. *f* songs. World, World, I come with my songs.

Pno. $\text{♩} = 80$ *f*

83 **Meno mosso**

S. *p* World, world.

A. *p* World, world.

T. *p* World, world.

B. *p* World.

Pno. **Meno mosso** *p* *pp*