JOAN SZYMKO

The Journey

poem by David Whyte

JOAN SZYMKO (b.1957)

Joan Szymko is widely regarded as an outstanding composer of choral music in America today. With a catalog of over 100 choral works in print, her music is sung regularly at choral festivals and competitions across North America and abroad and since 2003 has been heard on stage or in sessions at every National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association. The 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 in 2010. Szymko has composed for professional, church, LGBTQ, and all manner of academic and community choirs.

Szymko's embodied approach to sound, dedication to craft, and insistence on quality texts— all relate to her experience as a conductor and are reflected in her choral compositions. Her settings consistently display a discerning, insightful marriage of words and music. Her primary intention is to illuminate and magnify the words she sets. Joan is particularly drawn to texts that invoke divine grace, speak to the universal yearning for good and that nurture a compassionate heart.

Joan lives and works in Portland, Oregon in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. A dynamic conductor, she workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad. For more about Joan, see www.joanszymko.com.

DAVID WHYTE (b.1955)

"David Whyte is an internationally renowned poet and author, and a scintillating and moving speaker. Behind these talents lies a very physical attempt to give voice to the wellsprings of human identity, human striving and, most difficult of all, the for possibilities for human happiness. He is the author of ten books of poetry, three books of prose on the transformative nature of work, a widely-acclaimed book of essays, and an extensive audio collection. He makes his home in the Pacific Northwest, where rain and changeable skies remind him of the other, more distant homes from which he comes: Yorkshire, Wales and Ireland. " (from DavidWhyte.com)

THE JOURNEY

Above the mountains the geese turn into the light again

painting their black silhouettes on an open sky.

Sometimes everything has to be enscribed across the heavens

so you can find the one line already written inside you.

Sometimes it takes a great sky to find that

first, bright and indescribable wedge of freedom in your own heart.

Sometimes with the bones of the black sticks left when the fire has gone out

someone has written something new in the ashes of your life.

You are not leaving. Even as the light fades quickly now, you are arriving.

"The Journey," Copyright ©1977 by David Whyte.

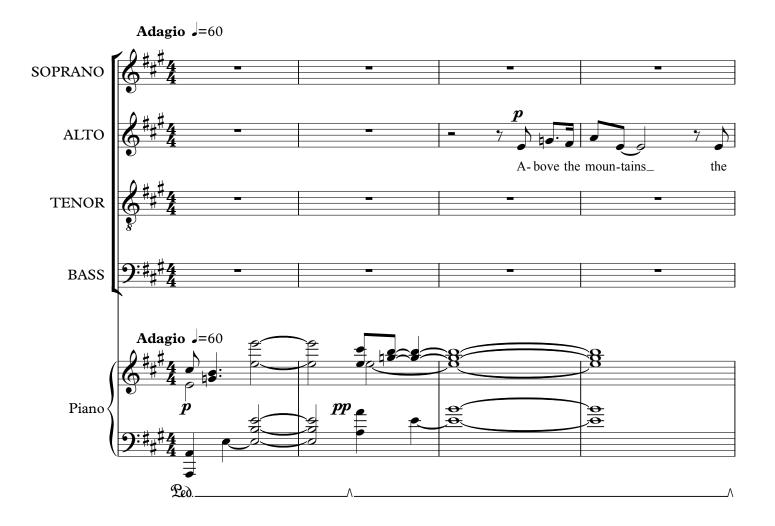
Used by permission of David Whyte and

Many Rivers LLC.

The Journey

poem by David Whyte

Joan Szymko

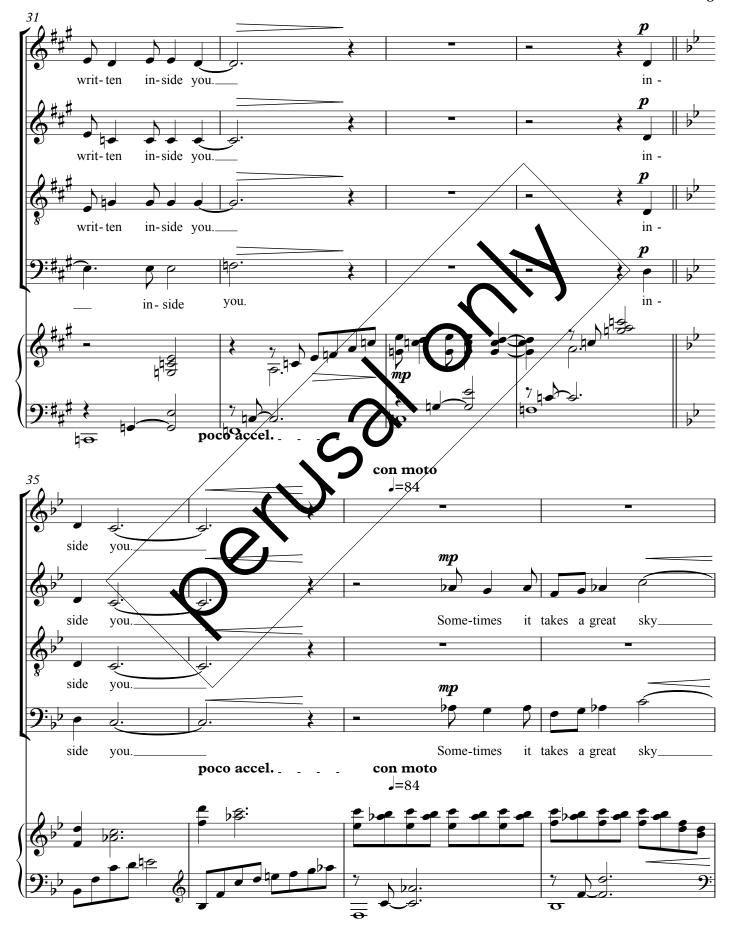












THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION







THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION





