

Flying Solo

for SATB choir and piano



Consortium Members:

Baker University, Dr. Ryan Olsen, conductor; Baldwin City, KS

Branham High School, Barbara West, conductor; San Jose, CA

C. M. Russell High Chanteur Choir, Lynn Ryan, conductor; Great Falls, MT

Chanhassen High School Concert Choir, Sarah Gilbertson, conductor; Chanhassen, MN

Charlotte High School Chorale, Andy Schroetter, conductor; Charlotte, MI

Cherry Creek High School Meistersingers, Sarah Harrison, conductor; Greenwood Village, CO

Concordia International School Shanghai Chamber Singers, Meg Ideker, conductor; Shanghai, China

East Gaston High School Concert Choir, Peter Haley, conductor, Mt. Holly, NC

Estes Park High School Concert Choir, Alan Denney, conductor; Estes Park, CO

Flower Mound High School, Dr. Mark Rohwer, conductor; Flower Mound, TX

Gonzaga University Concert Choir, Dr. Timothy Westerhaus, conductor; Spokane, WA

Great Falls High, Patrick Ryan, conductor; Great Falls, MT

Greater South Jersey Chorus, Dr. Christopher Thomas, conductor; Cherry Hill, NJ

Illinois College, Dr. Abby Musgrove, conductor; Jacksonville, IL

Indianola High School Choir, Myles Finn, conductor; Indianola, IA

Interlochen Arts Academy Choir, John Bragle, conductor; Interlochen, MI

Iowa City West High School Singers, David Haas, conductor; Iowa City, IA

Irvine High School, Tina Peterson, conductor; Irvine, CA

Kansas City Kansas Community College, John Stafford, conductor; Kansas City, KS

Lakeside School Concert Choir, Shekela Wanyama, conductor; Seattle, WA

Laramie High School Plainsmen Singers, Donna Solverud, conductor; Laramie, WY

Mason City High School, Joel Everist, conductor; Mason City, IA

Muleshoe High School, Christy Barber, conductor; Muleshoe, TX

New Richmond High School, New Richmond, WI

North Idaho College Cardinal Chorale, Max Mendez, conductor; Coeur d'Alene, ID

North Lamar HS Varsity Mixed, Rebecca Hildreth, director; Paris, TX

Northeastern Illinois University Choirs, Dr. Christopher Owen, conductor; Chicago, IL

Northern Illinois University, Dr. Eric A. Johnson, conductor; DeKalb, IL

Oriana Consort, Walter Chapin, conductor; Cambridge, MA

Osseo Senior High Chamber Singers, Margaret Sabin, conductor; Osseo, MN

Pella Christian High School Concert Choir, Timothy Van Voorst, conductor, Pella, IA

Penn State Behrend Concert Choir, Dr. Gabrielle Dietrich, conductor; Erie, PA

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Concert Choir, Steven D. Mick, conductor; Sauk Rapids, MN

Shattuck-St. Mary's Chamber Choir, Peter Schleif and James Yao, conductors; Faribault, MN

South Metro Chorale, Mark Bilyeu, conductor; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Southern Berkshire Regional School District, Chris Clark, conductor; Sheffield, MA

The St. Michael - Albertville Concert Choir, Brandon Berger and Joseph Osowski, directors; St. Michael, MN

Sunnyvale High School Choir, Megan Senter, conductor; Sunnyvale, TX

VJ and Angela Skutt Catholic High School Concert Choirs, Chris Storm, conductor; Omaha, NE

Waconia High School Select Chamber Choir, Aaron Olson, conductor; Waconia, MN

Walter Johnson High School Madrigals, Kelly Butler, conductor; Bethesda, MD

Washington Community High School, Lara Reem, conductor; Washington, IL

Waunakee High School Concert Choir, Molly Petroff, conductor; Waunakee, WI

Wright County Chamber Chorus, Michael Walsh, conductor; Buffalo, MN

Text:

You are gone, And I fall silent.

You staked your life To save my own. You spoke for me And called me friend, And you are silent now.

Together we were legend—
The Falcon, you, and I—
No bounty hunter stopped us;
No pirate lord could bring us in.
We smuggled, we fought, eluded, tricked;
We owned the Kessel Run.
Heroes of the Rebellion.

We have seen the darkness rise, and fall, And rise again. The struggle continues, And I take my familiar seat, But I cannot fly solo.

But now there is another, And the Falcon flies again. You trusted her. I trust her too. But I will not forget.

- Charles Anthony Silvestri
- Commissioned for this piece. Used with permission.

From the Composer:

As I've become more in touch with what drives my creative energy, I've tried to find ways to combine my passions togther. When I was a kid, this meant putting every topping imaginable on my ice cream. More recently it means making choral music out of new poetry inspired by film. I had the idea to take a longer look at some of the themes from scenes or moments on film and explore them in a different artistic medium. In this way, we as musicians can explore passion, fear, grief, strength and other emotions with an additional access point other than words and music.

I called Tony up and asked him if he'd be interested in this project. We talked about a few films, and then when I told him my idea for this piece, he paused and said, "I've been waiting my whole life to write a Star Wars poem."

We wanted to write about a moment in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" where (SPOLIER ALERT) Chewbacca witnesses his lifelong friend Han Solo get killed. We see a moment of grief on screen, but for those of us who have been through any kind of grief, we know it lasts a whole lot longer than that. Tony and I wanted to explore that grief from a best friend's perspective. The poem itself is very specific (and delightfully so for a geek like me), but I think Tony has captured the emotion perfectly: Starting with despair and ending with hope.

In the original poem, Tony had written a wordless wailing in between a few of the stanzas. It was obviously a wookie sound - "rruoww" - and since that's a hard word for humans to pronounce, we will sing it on an "ah" vowel. But notice that there is a 16th note tremolo in it, meant to approximate that slow, gutteral wookie vibrato.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2018



















Reviewed as "gorgeous" (Washington Post) and "stunning" (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

A Worshipper and a Man SATB a cappella And I Saw SATB div. a cappella SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella As the Sunflower Turns on Her God The Darkling Thrush (earthsongs) SATB, SAT soli, a cappella SATB, hand drum Fragile Listen to the Apples SATB div. a cappella MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change SATB, piano MOMENTS IN FILM: Insidious SATB, piano MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo SATB, piano Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers (Graphite Publishing) SSATBB a cappella SSATBB a cappella Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius One Boy Told Me SATB, piano Ragnarök SATB div. a cappella Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred) SSAATTBB a cappella

Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)

This Alien Landscape

This Amazing Life

SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum

SA(T)B, piano

And I Saw
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay
Cassiopeia
Duende
How to Triumph Like a Girl
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)
SSAA div. a cappella
SSAA div. a cappella
SSAA cappella
SSAA, floor toms
SSAA, floor toms
SSAA, piano
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)
Unison, TTB, piano

There is No Rose (Lorelei Ensemble) SSAA, SS soli, a cappella Torn Map (Graphite Publishing) SA, piano

Empty
Goodbye, Then
TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl
Kin
Luceat Eis
TTTBB a cappella
Mad
TB, piano

MadTB, pianoOriginal Harmony(Colla Voce)TTBB a cappellaRough BeastTTBB, percussionSalve Regina(Graphite Publishing)TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella

Things I Didn't Know I Loved (Graphite Publishing) TTBB a cappella

(Graphite Publishing) TTBB a cappella

Helios (ca. 65')

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')

SATB, piano or string quartet

SATB, piano or string quartet

SATB div. a cappella

True North (ca. 16')

SATB, chamber orchestra

We the Unknown (ca. 40')

TTBB, solvists, chamber orchestra

We, the Unknown (ca. 40')

Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')

TBB, chamber orchestra

TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano

