

Joseph  
SATB, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## Joseph

for SATB a cappella choir

Commissioned by Una Vocis Choral Ensemble, Mason City, Iowa



TimothyCTakach.com

## Text:

“I was like a father holding you in my arms”  
*Book of Hosea*

a starry sky is in my arms

I hear my breathing—now not only mine  
each dawn is different now that you are here

sometimes I stare at you, sometimes I tremble  
I stand above you, my head a moon  
and you down there on the sweet straw

each dawn is different now that you are here  
I hear my breathing, now not only mine

all my dreams for you, wondering  
who you might be, how far you may have come  
to be with us

each dawn is different now that you are here

sometimes I feel among waves too steep,  
my boat too small  
for these wide hands to have made

when I’ve been working, when the sun is low,  
I sink into the stream and lie there, pale as stone  
and still this burning that I feel  
so deep inside me

how are you mine, child?  
how are you ever mine?

I am like a father  
I am like a father

so let the old Joseph die, the new be born  
hold high this lantern for the world to see—  
this child, this light, this saving one

a starry sky within my arms (O heart!)  
each dawn is different now that you are here

*-Michael Dennis Browne  
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## Notes from the composer:

As I was thinking about writing a new Christmas piece (and thinking about having something new to say), I realized that one character in the story that is often overlooked is Joseph. I asked poet Michael Dennis Browne to think about what emotions Joseph might have been experiencing at that time. He’s about to assume the role of a father to a boy who is not his, and his simple life as a carpenter will never be the same.

Musically, the piece starts simply, in a minor exploration of the musical triad. It wanders a bit and feels a little ungrounded. His statements start on the offbeats, as if he hesitates. But as his thoughts turn to who this child is to become, the music shifts to major mode, and becomes warm and hopeful, as if his thoughts are enough to ground him. When he experiences his rebirth, he gains confidence and strength, and his statements start on the downbeats. Joseph has embraced the child and his role as a father.

*- Timothy C. Takach (2016)*

## Notes from the poet:

When I began working on the words in August of 2016, I had Joseph rather more anxious than joyful—not at all sure about how to be a father to this mystery guest. But after the birth of our first granddaughter, Julia, some three weeks later, the words began to be lifted on the tide of wonder we were experiencing and I found a sense of blessing to be the main emotion I wanted to suggest. I also went back to memories of the births of our own three children, long ago, and the deep joy they have been to us ever since. I’ve kept elements of tension in the character—poems and lyrics need some of that—but the overall feeling is of transformation, the old doubts dying in the blaze of unprecedented joy.

*- Michael Dennis Browne (2016)*

*Commissioned by Una Vocis Choral Ensemble, Mason City, Iowa.  
Dedicated to all fathers whose perspectives have formed and shaped us.*

For Graham and his journey. - TCT

# Joseph

for SATB a capella

Michael Dennis Browne

Timothy C. Takach

**With Rubato**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*mp*

Alto

a star-ry sky is in my arms I hear my breath-ing- now not on - ly mine

5

A each dawn is diffe-rent now that you are here some-times I stare at you,  
T some-times I stare at you,

9

A some-times I trem-ble I stand a - bove you, my head a moon  
T some-times I trem-ble I stand a - bove you, my head a moon

12

A and you down there on the sweet straw each dawn is diffe-rent  
T and you down there on the sweet straw each dawn is diffe-rent

17

A now that you are here I hear my breath-ing, now not on - ly mine  
T now that you are here



Timothy C Takach.com

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21  $\text{♩} = 92$  *mf*

S all my dreams for you, who how *mp mf*

A all my dreams for you, won-der-ing who you might be, how *mp mf*

T all my dreams for you, won-der-ing who you might be, how *mp mf*

B all my dreams for you, who you might be, how *mp mf*

27 *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 72$  *mf* *p*

S far you may have come to be with us each dawn is diffe-rent *mf p*

A far you may have come to be with us each dawn is diffe-rent *f p*

T far you may have come to be with us each dawn is diffe-rent *f p*

B far you may have come to be with us *f mf*

31 *mf*

S now that you are here some-times I feel a-mong waves too steep, *mf*

A now that you are here some-times I feel a-mong waves too steep, *mf*

T now that you are here some-times I feel a-mong waves too steep, *mf*

B

35

S my boat too small for these wide hands to have made when I've been work-ing,

A my boat too small for these wide hands to have made when I've been work-ing,

T my boat too small for these wide hands to have made when I've been work-ing,

B

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

38

S when the sun is low, I sink in-to the stream and lie there, pale as stone

A when the sun is low, I sink in-to the stream and lie there, pale as stone

T when the sun is low, I sink in-to the stream and lie there, pale as stone

B when the sun is low, I sink in-to the stream and lie there, pale as stone

*mf* *rit.* *p* = 60

*mf* *p*

*mf* *p*

*mf* *p*

43

S I feel so deep

A that I feel so deep in - side me

T and still this burn-ing that I feel so deep in - side me

B and still this burn-ing that I feel so deep in - side me

*mf* *f*

*mp* *mp*

*mp* *mp*

*mp* *mp*

47  $\text{♩} = 92$  *mf*

S how are you mine, child? ev - er

A how are you mine, how are you ev - er

T how are you mine, how are you ev - er

B how are you mine, child? ev - er

53 *f*

S mine? am like a fa - ther

A mine? I am like a fa - ther

T mine? I am like a fa - ther

B mine? I am like a fa - ther

59  $\text{♩} = 60$  *pp* *Warmly*  $\text{♩} = 72$  *mf*

S Ah... so let the old Jo-seph die, the new be born

A I am like a fa - ther so let the old Jo-seph die, the new be born

T Ah... so let the old Jo-seph die, the new be born

B I am like a fa - ther so let the old Jo-seph die, the new be born

63

S *f* hold high this lan - tern for the world to see- this child, — this light, this *ff*

A *f* hold high this lan - tern for the world to see- this child, — this light, this *ff*

T *f* hold high this lan - tern for the world to see- this child, — this light, this *ff*

B *f* hold high this lan - tern for the world to see- this child, this light, this *ff*

68

S *mf* sav - ing one a star - ry sky with - in my arms (O heart)

A *mf* sav - ing one a star - ry sky with - in my arms (O heart)

T *mf* sav - ing one a star - ry sky with - in my arms (O heart)

B *mf* sav - ing one a star - ry sky with - in my heart

72

S *mp* each dawn is diffe - rent *p*

A *mp* each dawn is diffe - rent now that you are here *p*

T *mp* each dawn is diffe - rent now that you are *p*

B *mp* each dawn is



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. 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, where he graduated with honors. He 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:

### Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

### Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)		SSAA a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
Twenty Questions		2-part treble, piano

### Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
Kin		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTTBB a cappella
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella

### Large Works

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano

