

We Sing of Home (Finlandia)
SATB, a cappella

arr. Timothy C. Takach

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Timothy C. Takach

We Sing of Home (Finlandia)

for SATB a cappella choir

Commissioned by the 2014-2015 Hopkins High School Concert Choir, Philip Brown, conductor



Timothy C Takach.com

Text:

You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain
Opened the earth, and planted your life there.
Heard in the wind, the tall grass whisper your name.
Somewhere the air makes peace with mystery,
Somewhere the hills now bloom, and rivers flow free.
Each song of home, is sung by trav'ling birds.

You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wishes burn bright.
Given your heart, in hope, despite the dark.
Over the miles the road that leads you homeward,
Is the path the moon takes, the sun keeps.
We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.
We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

- Julia Klatt Singer

Notes:

When Philip Brown asked me to arrange "Finlandia" for his choir, I was doubtful. There are many arrangements out there in the choral market, and I had sung the piece for at least three years during my time with Cantus. What more could I say musically about the piece? Then our thoughts turned to creating a new text, and not only offering something new to choirs, but also tailoring the piece to his specific thematic program. I asked my friend and long-time collaborator Julia Klatt Singer to write a new poem that scans perfectly with the meter and stress of the existing music (not an easy task). She thankfully agreed, and wrote this text. The moments when her stresses didn't agree with how I knew the piece (both in Finnish and English) I took as opportunities to deviate from the commonly sung tune.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2014

I started writing by listening to the Finnish version of Finlandia. It had me remembering visiting the farms of my Finnish Grandmother and her sister, my Aunt Auni, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. My aunts and uncles and cousins all spoke Finnish (my grandmother was one of 13 siblings), and I remember as a girl hearing the sounds of their words and not having a clue what they were talking about. So language became rhythm and sound, punctuated by laughter, quiet, screen doors slammed shut by the wind.

Writing, I thought about landscape, about home. I thought about sounds; of words, of the wind, of birds, of place. And even though those rocky fields, barns, fences and saunas weren't my home, it is a part of where I come from. It is a part of me. Having as an adult visited Finland, I was comforted and surprised to see how much the U.P. looks like Finland. The rocks, the grasses, the summer wildflowers, the vast blue skies.

There is mystery to place and to the past. Mystery we live with, and that lives in us.

- Julia Klatt Singer



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.

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Julia Klatt Singer

Jean Sibelius
arr. Timothy C. Takach

$\text{♩} = 96-100$

mp

Soprano

mp

Alto

mp

Tenor

mp

Bass

Mm... Mm... Mm... Mm...

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5

p

S

p

A

p

T

p

B

You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain

You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain

Ah...

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We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

10

S Ah... Heard in the wind, the

A O-pened the earth, and plant-ed your life there. Heard in the wind, the

T O-pened the earth, and plant-ed your life there. Heard in the wind, the

B Heard in the wind, the

p

16

S tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

A tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

T tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

B tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

mf *mp*

20

S peace with mys - ter Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

A peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

T peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

B peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

f

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

25 *mf* *rit.*

S flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

A flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

T flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

B flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

29 *a tempo* *p* *mf* *mf* Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

S birds. S1 S2 Ah... Ah...

A birds. Ah... Ah...

T birds. Ah...

B birds.

33 *p* *p* *p* *mp* *mf* *bring out melody* *(not heavy)* *(not heavy)*

S Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

A Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

T You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wish - es

B You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wish - es

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

37

S Ah... Ah... Ah...

A Ah... Ah... Ah...

T burn bright. Giv - en your heart, in hope, de-spite the

B burn bright. Giv - en your heart, in hope, de-spite the

mf *mp*

f *mf*

41

S Ah... Ah... Ah... O - ver the tutti

A Ah... Ah... Ah... O - ver the miles the road that leads you

T dark. O - ver the miles the road that leads you

B dark. O - ver the miles the road that leads you

f Warmly

f Warmly

f Warmly

f Warmly

45

S home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun

A home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun

T home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun

B home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun

mp

mp

mp

mp

4

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

49 *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 92$ **Broader**

S keeps. _____ *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

A keeps. _____ *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

T keeps. _____ *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

B keeps. _____ *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in. _____

54 *mf* *p*

S We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

A home, we sing of love, of peace.

T We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

B home, we sing of love, Mm... _____

58 *p* *molto rit.* *pp*

S Mm... _____

A Mm... _____

T Mm... _____

B Mm... _____

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
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
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
Epitaph		SATB, viola
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
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
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
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB chorus a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTTBBB a cappella

Large Works

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

