

viva sweet love



by
joan szymko



Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's music is sung by distinguished ensembles across North America and abroad including performances at international competitions and festivals, state and regional conferences and at six consecutive National Conferences of the American Choral Director's Association. Works such as "Nada te turbe" and "It Takes a Village" have entered into the standard repertoire in America.

The ACDA has recognized her lasting contribution to the choral arts by selecting Szymko as the recipient of the 2010 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission. In addition to her own *Viriditas Music* catalog, Joan Szymko has over sixty titles published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, *earthsongs*, Roger Dean Publishing Company, Treble Clef Press and Yelton Rhodes Music.

Composing for choir is a natural outgrowth of Szymko's creativity as a choral director, having developed community and church choirs in the Pacific Northwest over the past three decades. As with her conducting, Joan's dedication to craft and artistry, her love and respect for the singer, and her insistence on quality texts are all reflected in her choral writing. She is the Artistic Director of Aurora Chorus and a resident composer with Do Jump! Movement Theater (Portland, Or).

Notes

"viva sweet love" was composed for the Lincoln Center debut of the choral ensembles of Oregon State University. *Belle Voce* women's choir received a generous donation from the OSU Women's Giving Circle to support the commissioning of the work. The context of a spring premiere in New York City (Mother's Day 2013) dictated my search for text. I turned to E.E.Cummings, one of America's preeminent 20th century poets (and himself a New Yorker). This richly emotive poem bursts with energy and joy, perfectly capturing the essence of saying "yes" to love.

I had a great deal of fun creating this setting. It should be sung in an extravagant manner, as it is alternately driving and sensuous, explosive and tender, bold and shimmering. Take care to sing phrases as indicated. Taking liberties with tempo markings is not advised.

"sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love"

(all the merry little birds are
flying in the floating in the
very spirits singing in
are winging in the blossoming)

lovers go and lovers come
awandering awondering
but any two are perfectly
alone there's nobody else alive

(such a sky and such a sun
i never knew and neither did you
and everybody never breathed
quite so many kinds of yes)

not a tree can count his leaves
each herself by opening
but shining who by thousands mean
only one amazing thing

(secretly adoring shyly
tiny winging darting floating
merry in the blossoming
always joyful selves are singing)

“sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love”

—Edward Estlin Cummings (1894-1962)

"sweet spring is your" originally appeared in the collection, "1 X 1" [published by H.Holt in 1944]

commissioned by Belle Voce, Dr. Tina Bull, Director
Oregon State University

viva sweet love

E.E. Cummings

Joan Szymko

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano accompaniment. The right hand starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 5/8 time signature. It includes a tempo marking of quarter note = 136 and the instruction "Spritely". The left hand starts with a bass clef, the same key signature, and a 5/8 time signature. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The second system (measures 6-10) features four vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), and Alto 2 (A2). Each part begins with a treble clef, the same key signature, and a 5/8 time signature. The lyrics for all parts are: "sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is love - time and". The vocal parts include dynamics *p* and the instruction "poco a poco cresc.". The piano accompaniment continues in the second system, with dynamics *mp* and *p*, and includes a fermata over the final measure.

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[3 equal voices]

Sostenuto

12

mf mp

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

mf mp

8va legato

16

cresc.

sweet love and vi - va

swe love and vi - va

sweet love and vi - va

cresc.

cresc.

4

19

S1

S2

A1

A2

sweet love sweet love"

sweet love sweet love"

sweet love sweet love"

sweet love sweet love"

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *dim.* 3

23

A *leggiero*

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

A *light & bouncy*

25

S1
S2
A1
A2

fly - ing in the float - ing in the ve - ry spi - rits sing - ing in an

fly - ing, float - ing spi - rits sing are

28

wing - ing in the blos - som - ing) blos - som - ing

wing - ing in the blos - som - ing) blos - som - ing

molto rit.

33

B Slower, *p. vivo*
♩ = 64

poco rit.

accel.

ers go and lov - ers come a - wan - der - ing a - won - der - ing a - wan - der - ing a -

lov - ers come wan - der ing won - der - ing wan - der - ing a

B Slower, *espressivo*
♩ = 64

poco rit.

accel.

Ped.

won-der-ing but a-ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone

won-der-ing but a-ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone

won-der-ing but a-ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone there's

won-der-ing but a-ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone there's

♩=76

no-bo-dy else a - live

no-bo dy else a - live

no-bo-dy else a - live

no-bo- dy else a - live

rit.

47 **C** Tempo primo *f sempre*

S1
S2
A1
A2

(such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew an

(such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew and

C Tempo primo *a bit marcato*
pp *molto* *f*

52

nei - ther did you _____ ev - ery - bo - dy

nei - ther did you _____ and ev - ery - bo - dy _____

resc.

57

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of yes)

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of yes)

mf *f* *8va*



61

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

legato *mf* *dim.* *mp*

64 [3 equal voices] *rit.* **D** $\text{♩} = 60$ *p* *accel.* $\text{♩} = 76$ *mp*

not a tree can count his leaves

not a tree can count his leaves

not a tree can count

mp *mf*

rit. **D** $\text{♩} = 60$ *p* *mp* *mp*

69

p *mp* *cresc.*

each each each her-self by o-pen ing but

mp *mf* *mf*

each each each shin - ing

p *mp* *mf*

his leaves ea but shin - ing

75

mf *f* *ff*

shin - ing by thou - sands mean on - ly one

f *ff*

shin - ing who by thou - sands mean on - ly one

f *ff*

who by thou - sands mean on - ly one

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

79

S1
 on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

S2
 on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A1
 on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A2
 on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *dim.* *mp*

85 **E** Tempo primo

S1
 (se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing)

S2
 (se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing)

A1
 (se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing)

A2
 (se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing)

mp *p* *mp*

E Tempo primo

p *mp*

89 *mp* *mf*

S1
S2
mer - ry in the blos - som-ing mer-ry in the blos - som-ing

A
mp *mf*
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry blos - som - ing

A2
mp *mf*
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry - som-ing

94 *poco rit.* **F** *mp* *f*

S1
S2
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

A1
f
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

A2
f
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

poco rit. **F** *A tempo* *mp* *f* *mf*

PERUSAL SCORE: THESE BARS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

sub mp "sweet spring is your time is my time is *mf* our time for spring - time is
sub mp "sweet spring is your time is my time is *mf* our time for spring - time is
sub mp "sweet spring is your time is my time is *mf* our time for spring - time is
sub mp "sweet spring is your time is my time is *mf* our time for spring - time is

mp

110

love - time and vi - va sweet love and

love - time and vi - va sweet love and

love - time and vi - va sweet love and

love - time and vi - va sweet love and

p

p

p

p

mp

8va

Red.

*

114

vi va sweet

vi - va sweet

vi - va sweet

p

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116 *mf*

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

mp

118 *mf*

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

121

love sweet love

love sweet love

love sweet love

love et love

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mp *p* *mp*

8va

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