

Joan Szymko (b.1957) is a composer and conductor from the Pacific Northwest. With a catalog of over 100 published choral works, her music is performed by ensembles across North America and abroad and is frequently heard at regional, national and international choral festivals and competitions. A frequently commissioned composer, she was the recipient of the ACDA's Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. More recently, she was commissioned by Eugene Vocal Arts to both create the libretto and compose a large scale work which focuses on those faced with the tragedy of Alzheimer's dementia. *Shadow and Light* was premiered in April 2016 to great critical acclaim. Composing for vocal ensembles is an extension of Szymko's creativity as a choral director. She has inspired community and church choirs in Seattle and Portland for over thirty years. In addition to her own published works, her music appears in the catalogs of Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Lorenz Corporation (Roger Dean Publishing), earthsongs, Treble Clef Press, and Walton Music. She is a founding member of the Independent Music Publishers Cooperative. Visit joanszymko.com to view her entire catalog of choral music.

Szymko lives and works in Portland, Oregon. She enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Do Jump! Movement Theater (1994-2004) as a performer, music director and resident composer. She recently served on the choral music faculty at Portland State University. As a visiting artist, she has workshoped her music, serving as guest conductor for choirs in a variety of educational settings across the US and in the Netherlands. Szymko also served as the Artistic Director of Aurora Chorus since 1993.

PROGRAM NOTES

In Spring of 1999, Peninsula Women's Chorus artistic director Patty Hennings had a dream: that PWC could work with school children to help them write poetry which could be set to music for the chorus. PWC collaborated with California Poets in the Schools, the largest writers-in-the-schools program in the nation. Poets collaborated with

PWC members who were elementary teachers in the Bay Area, working with nearly 400 students. Joan Szymko was one of three composers commissioned by PWC to select and set poems from the project. The two young poets Szymko selected for "This Wonderful Feeling" were in the third grade when these poems were written "Saboo," "In my Quiet Place," and "Purple Night" are a showcase for advanced women's chorus.

This Wonderful Feeling

1. saboo

What will we do
saboo saboo
walla kaboo
Should we jump off
the tree?
Will you play with me?
saboo, saboo
walla kaboo
and I love you
Wallakaboo

- Anna Madrigal

2. In My Quiet Place

In my quiet place everything is quiet.
Quiet as the butterfly on silent wings.
Quiet as a leaf falling through the air.
Quiet makes me feel like
I am the only one on earth.
The first to find this wonderful feeling inside me.

- Mary Whitney

3. Purple Night

Purple as a purple sky on a Sunday night.
Purple as a dark purple dress.
A purple dress on a purple night, a purple world
and a purple bird in flight.

- Mary Whitney

This Wonderful Feeling

1. saboo

Adriana Madrigal

Joan Szymko

Playfully

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Tenor (T) voices, along with piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/style is marked 'Playfully'. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. Large green text 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

3

S2: *p* What will we do__

A: *mp* What will we do__ *mf*

5

S1: *mf* sa - boo__

S2: *mp* sa - boo *mf* sa - boo

A: *mf* sa - boo

8

S1 sa - boo sa - boo

S2 *poco* What will we do what will we do what will we

A *poco* What will we do what will we do what will we

mf

10

S1 wal-la wal-la wal-la-ka - boo

S2 do sa - boo wal-la-ka - boo

A do sa - boo sa - boo

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

mf p poco a poco cresc.

12

S1 sa - boo sa - boo

S2 wal-la-ka - boo Should we jump off the tree?

A sa - boo Should we jump off the tree?

mp

14

S1 *f* Should we jump off the tree?— *f sempre* play with me?

S2 *f sempre* Will you—

A *f sempre* Will you—

f

17

S1 FOR

S2 *mf* sa - boo,

A *mf* sa - boo

ONLY

f *p*

19

S1 *mf* What will we do, *f* what will we do *p* sa - boo—

S2 sa - boo

A *f* will you play with me?

mp *mf*

21

S1 *mp* Will you play with

S2 *p* Will you play with me? *mp* Will you play with

A *p* Will you play with me? *mp* Will you play with

pp *mp* *p*

24

S1 *mf* me? Sa - boo__ *mf* wal-la-ka-boo

S2 *mf* me? Sa - boo__

A *mf* me? Sa - boo__ wal-la-ka-boo

mf

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

27

S1 *f* wal-la-ka-boo__

S2 *f* sa - boo__ sa - boo

A *f* sa - boo__

29 *poco a poco dim.*

S1 Sa - boo

S2 Sa - boo

A Sa - boo

mp *f* *poco a poco dim.*

31 *p* *In 2* *mp*

S1 and I love

S2 and I love

A and I love

p *mp* *mp*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

33 *mf*

S1 you Wal - la - ka - boo

S2 you Wal - la - ka - boo

A you Wal - la - ka - boo

mf *mf* *mf*

35

S1 *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

S2 *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

A *mp* Wal-la-ka-boo

mf

37

S1 *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

S2 *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

A *p* Wal-la-ka-boo *ppp*

pp *ppp*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

This Wonderful Feeling

2. In my quiet place

Marty Whitney

Joan Szymko

Simply, patiently

The musical score is arranged for four vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems, with measure numbers 6 and 11 indicated. The first system (measures 1-5) is marked 'Simply, patiently' and includes dynamic markings such as *sost.*, *pp*, and *poco*. The second system (measures 6-10) includes *p* and *mp* markings. The third system (measures 11-14) contains the lyrics: 'In my quiet place' and 'ev-'ry-thing is quiet.' The piano accompaniment consists of a single melodic line with various dynamics and articulations.

15

pp *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

S1 In my qui-et place In my qui-et

S2 *pp* *pp* In my qui-et

A1 *pp* Mm Mm *pp* In my qui-et

A2 *pp* Mm Mm *pp* In my qui-et

Mm In my qui-et

p *mp* niente

20

p *p* *p* *p*

S1 place, ev-ery-thing is qui-et.

S2 *p* place, ev-ery-thing is qui-et.

A1 *p* place, ev-ery-thing is qui-et.

A2 *p* place, ev-ery-thing is qui-et.

place, ev-ery-thing is qui-et.

p *pp* *p*

24

gently *p* *gently* *p*

S1 Qui-et as a but-ter-fly on si-lent wings.

S2 *gently* *p* Qui-et as a but-ter-fly on si-lent wings.

ppp *p* *pp*

27 *mf* *p* *mp* *sost.* *p* *gently*

S1 Qui - et as a leaf fall - ing, fall - ing through the

S2 Qui - et as a leaf fall - ing, fall - ing through the

A1 fall - ing, fall - ing through the

A2 fall - ing, fall - ing through the

p *pp* *poco* *p*

FOR PERUSAL

30 *mp* *p*

S1 air (ah) Ah

S2 air Ah Ah

A1 air Ah

A2 air Ah Ah

mp *p div.*

mp *pp*

ONLY

34

S1 *div.*
Ah

S2
Ah

A1 *mp* Qui - et makes me feel _____ like I am the on - ly one, *mf* the

A2
Ah

6

37

S1 *mp*
Ah Ah

S2 *mp*
Ah Ah

A1 on - ly one on earth _____ Ah

A2 *mp*
Ah Ah

FOR
PERUSAL
ONLY

41

S1 *p* *cresc.*
The first to find this won - der - ful feel - ing in -

S2 *p* *cresc.*
The first to find this won - der - ful feel - ing in -

A1 *p* *cresc.*
The first to find this won - der - ful feel - ing in -

A2 *p* *cresc.*
The first to find this won - der - ful feel - ing in -

p *mp* *p* *mp*

FOR
PERUSAL

44

S1 *mf* *mp* *am.* *pp*
side me.

S2 *mf* *mp* *dim.* *pp*
side me.

A1 *mf* *mp* *dim.* *pp*
side me.

A2 *mf* *mp* *dim.* *pp*
side me.

mp *p* *pp* *ppp*

ONLY

This Wonderful Feeling

3. Purple night

Marty Whitney

Joan Szymko

♩=48 Warmly *p* *molto sostenuto*

S Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, pur-ple sky.

S *mp* Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, a pur-ple sky

A *p* Mm mm

4 S *mp* Pur-ple as a pur-ple, as a pur-ple sky.

A on a Sun-day night. Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky,

A *mp* n.b.

Marimba *p*

7 *mf* *solo*
S Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky, a pur-ple sky, a pur-ple
S *mf*
S Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky,
A *mf*
A Pur-ple as a pur-ple sky on a Sun-day night.
A *mf*
Ah

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

10 *f* *più mosso* ♩.=76
S sky.
S *f*
S pur-ple sky, pur-ple night.
A *f*
A pur-ple sky, pur-ple night.
A *f*
A pur-ple sky, pur-ple night. ♩.=76

più mosso
mf *f* *mf*

With delight
mf *piu mosso* ♩.=96

14

S

Pur-ple as _____ a

f *mp* *mf* *mp*

accelerando ♩.=96

17

S

pur - ple sky _____ on a Sun-day night. _____

A

pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple

A

pur-ple pur-ple pur - ple

mp

poco

21

S

Pur - ple as _____ a pur - ple sky _____ on a Sun-day night. _____

S

Pur-ple as _____ a pur - ple sky _____ on a Sun-day night. _____

A

pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple. as a

A

pur - ple pur - ple pur - ple

mf *poco*

FOR
PERUSAL
ONLY

24

S Pur - ple as a pur - ple skahi ahi ahi ahi

S *mp* Pur - ple sky, *mf* pur-ple sky,

A *mp* pur-ple. pur-ple as a pur-ple as a pur-ple pur-ple pur-ple as a pur-ple

A pur - ple pur - ple pur - ple

6

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

27

S ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi Ah, *f*

S *f* pur - ple night, *f*

A as a pur-ple night. *f*

A pur - ple sky. *f*

f

30 *solo* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

S Ah, ah pur - ple sky, pur - ple sky,

(S1, S2)

A pur - ple sky, pur - ple sky,

A pur - ple sky, pur - ple sky,

FOR PERUSAL

(solo) 33

S ah

S *solo* Ah

A *solo* Ah

ONLY

36

S *tutti mp* < *mf* *mp*
 pur - ple, pur - ple, pur - ple night.

S *tutti mp* < *mf* *mp*
 pur - ple, pur - ple, pur - ple night.

A *tutti mp* *mp*
 pur - ple, pur - ple as a pur - ple night.

Perc. *mp* *mf* > *mp* >
 maracas - L and R together

40

S *pp*
 pur - ple,

Perc. *mp* *mf* > *mf* *pp*

43

S *p*
 pur - ple, pur - ple, dark pur - ple dress

A *p*
 pur - ple, pur - ple as a dark pur - ple dress

Perc. *p*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

46 *mf*
S on a pur-ple night.____
A *mf* on a pur-ple night.____ *mp* pur - ple,____
Perc. *mp* *mf* *mp*

50 *mp* *mp* *f*
S pur - ple, pur - ple_____ on a pur - - ple____
A *mp* *mf* *f*
pur - ple,____ pur - ple, pur - ple on a pur - ple night.____
Perc. *mf* *f*

53 *f sempre*
S night,____ a pur - ple dress_____ on a
A a pur - ple dress_____
Perc. *f*

56

S pur-ple night, a pur - ple world,

S pur-ple night, pur - ple world

A pur-ple night, a pur - ple world

A pur-ple night, pur - ple world,

Perc. *mf*

FOR PERUSAL

59

S *mf* and a pur - ple bird in flight. *mf* a

S *mf* and a pur - ple bird in flight, a

A *mf* and a pur - ple bird in flight, a

A

Perc. *mp*

62

poco a poco cresc.

S *pur - ple bird in flight, (ah)*

stagger breathe poco a poco cresc.

S

A *pur - ple bird in flight, and a pur - ple bird in*

A *and a pur - ple bird in*

mf

Perc. *mf*

poco a poco cresc.

65

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S *Ah ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi*

S *Ah Ah ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi ahi*

A *flight, a pur - ple bird in flight,*

A *flight, a pur - ple bird in flight,*

f

Perc. *f*

68

S Ah Ah Ah pur - ple *ff*

S Ah Ah Ah pur - ple *ff*

A pur - ple *ff*

A pur - ple *ff*

Perc. *f* 2

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

70

S night. *ff*

S night. *ff*

A night. *ff*

A night. *ff*

Perc. *ff*