

JOAN SZYMKO

This Wonderful Feeling

No. 2

In My Quiet Place

for

ssaa chorus

&

marimba

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 workshopped her music, serving as guest conductor for choirs in a variety of educational settings across the US and in the Netherlands. Szymko has 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

2. In my quiet place

Marty Whitney

Joan Szymko

Simply, patiently

The musical score is arranged for four voices: S1, S2, A1, and A2. It begins with a tempo/mood instruction 'Simply, patiently'. The key signature has four flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features piano accompaniment with dynamics *sost. pp* and *poco*. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *mp*. The third system (measures 11-15) includes vocal entries with lyrics: 'In my quiet place' and 'ev-'ry-thing is quiet.'. The piano accompaniment in the third system includes dynamics *p* and *mp*, and markings *poco*. A large green watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid across the middle of the score.

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*

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*

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 *sost. mp* *p* *gently*
fall - ing, fall - ing through the

A2 *sost. mp* *p* *gently*
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_ *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

2. In my quiet place

Joan Szymko

3 3

9 2 2

15 2 *p* *mp* *niente* *p*

21 *pp* *p* *ppp* *p*

25 *pp*

27 *p* *pp* *p* *co*

30 *mp* *pp*

34 *p*

37 4

41 *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

44 *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*