

Commissioning Choir: Northwestern State University Chamber Choir;  
Michael John Trotta, Composer; Michael John Trotta; Conductor; Nicholas B. Cummins, Conductor;  
Northwestern State University Chamber Choir; Chorus;  
Leah Forsyth, Oboe; Andrej Kurti, Violin 1; Jonathan Andino, Violin 2;  
Sofia Tchetchelashvili, Viola; Alonso Restrepo Cardozo, Violoncello

First Performance/Recording Date: March 1, 2017  
Recording Engineer: Pat Divietro

This project was made possible by the Lynn Prince Endowed Professorship in Voice.

Total Duration: 30:27

NOTES

Each of the movements of *For a Breath of Ecstasy* chronicles Teasdale's search for solace amidst life's many storms. The tapestry of different vocal forces set against the backdrop of Oboe and Strings reveals moments of yearning, love, joy, and peace. Vivid imagery portrays transcendent moments of solace that are revealed in an individual's relationship to nature and in love.

This work draws texts from *Love Songs*, the anthology of celebrated American poet, Sara Teasdale (1884–1933), and was commissioned to celebrate the centennial of her winning the first Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1918.

—Michael John Trotta

TEXT

I gave my first love laughter,  
I gave my second tears,  
I gave my third love silence  
Thru all the years.

My first love gave me singing,  
My second eyes to see,  
But oh, it was my third love  
Who gave my soul to me.

Note: These are the texts in their original form. The composer altered them in his settings. See the music for footnotes.

AVAILABLE EDITIONS

*For a Breath of Ecstasy,*  
*complete edition*

- 1.3523, Piano/Oboe Choral Score
- 1.3523A, Full Score
- 1.3523B, Oboe Part
- 1.3523C, String Parts

*Each movement*  
*available separately*

- 1. Wealth Enough for Me  
1.3524, Choral Score  
1.3524A, Full Score  
1.3524B, String Parts

- 2. Peace Flows into Me  
1.3525, Choral Score  
1.3525A, Full Score  
1.3525B, String Parts

- 3. Who Gave My Soul to Me  
1.3526, Choral Score  
1.3526A, Full Score  
1.3526B, String Parts

- 4. For You I Am Still  
1.3527, Choral Score  
1.3527A, Full Score  
1.3527B, String Parts

- 5. Spend All You Have  
on Loveliness  
1.3451, Choral Score  
1.3451A, Full Score  
1.3451B, String Parts

- 6. And I For You  
1.3528, Choral Score  
1.3528A, Full Score  
1.3528B, String Parts

- 7. Let Me Love  
1.3529, Choral Score  
1.3529A, Full Score  
1.3529B, String Parts

Note: The oboe part is included in the choral score of each separate movement.

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

For biographical information visit: [www.mjtrotta.com](http://www.mjtrotta.com)

*Dedicated to Dr. Greg Handel, Director of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts  
for his incredible support of the choral arts*

Michael John Trotta  
(ASCAP)

\*Play cue-sized notes if Oboe is not present.

Ob. 11

Ob. 13

Ob. 15

Ob. 17 **B**

T. *unis. mp*

B. *unis. mp*

**B**

I gave my first love — laugh - ter, I\*

I gave my first love — laugh - ter, I\*

\* The composer inserted the words "I gave" here.

19

T *gave my se - cond love\* — tears,*

B *gave my se - cond love\* — tears,*

21

T *Gave\*\* my third — love — si - lence*

B *Gave\*\* my third — love — si - lence*

23

Ob. *mf*

T *Through\*\*\* — all the years. — My first — love — gave me*

B *Through\*\*\* — all the years. — My first — love — gave me*

*unis. mf*

*mf*

\* The composer inserted the word “love” here.

\*\* The composer omitted the word “I” here.

\*\*\* The word “Thru” were changed to “Through” by the composer in the music to reflect a more current spelling.

26

Ob.

T

B

29

T

B

32

T

B

\* The composer inserted the words "gave me" here.

35 **D**

Ob. *mp*

T  
8  
me.

B  
me.

**D**  
*mp*

38

Ob.

*p*

40

Ob.

42

Ob.

*p*

44 **E**

Ob.

T

B

*mp*

*mp*

Oo

I gave my first love\_\_ laugh - ter, I

46

Ob.

T

B

gave my se - cond love\*\_\_ tears,

\* The composer inserted the word "love" here.

48

Ob.

T

*unis.*

Gave\* my third\_\_ love\_\_ si - lence

B

*unis.*

Gave\* my third\_\_ love\_\_ si - lence

50

Ob.

T

*unis. mf*

Through\*\* all the years.\_\_\_\_ My first\_\_ love\_\_ gave me

B

*unis. mf*

Through\*\* all the years.\_\_\_\_ My first\_\_ love\_\_ gave me

\* The composer omitted the word "I" here.

\*\* The word "Thru" were changed to "Through" by the composer in the music to reflect a more current spelling.



53

Ob.

T

B

sing - ing, My sec - ond gave\* me eyes to see, But

sing - ing, My sec - ond gave\* me eyes to see, But

56

Ob.

T

B

oh, it was my third love Who gave my soul to

oh, it was my third love Who gave my soul to

*cresc.*

*unis.*

\* The composer inserted the words “gave me” here.

59 *unis.*

T  
me, who gave my soul \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

B  
me, \_\_\_\_\_ who gave \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ soul \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

*dim.*

63 **G**

Ob.  
*mp*

**G**  
*mp*

65

Ob.

67

Ob.

69

Ob.

71

Ob.

*p*

*p*

*mp*

75