

PROGRAM NOTES

A setting of Song of Songs, Chapter 8:6a and 7a, *Set Me as a Seal* was composed as a vehicle for the prominent cantor, Ira Bigeleisen, and his particularly rich basso voice. However, the solo can also be sung effectively by an alto. Structurally, it is a simple AABA' form, and presents no unusual vocal demands on the chorus. Cascading vocal entries on the text "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it" provide text painting and contrast to music that is otherwise gently lyrical and songlike.

—Nick Strimple

TEXT

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon your heart.

Song of Songs 8:6a,7a
Authorized King James Version
Adapted by Nick Strimple

Nick Strimple (b. 1946)

For biographical information visit:
www.nickstrimple.com

for Cantor Ira Bigeleisen and the Adat Ariel Concert Series

Set Me as a Seal

for Alto or Bass Solo, SATB Chorus, and Piano

Song of Songs 8:6a,7a
AKJV, alt.

Nick Strimple

Solo

Piano

Solo

Pno.

Solo

Pno.

Set me as a
seal up - on your heart, as a seal up - on your

The musical score is written for a Solo voice and Piano accompaniment. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72, and the piano part is marked *mf sempre legato*. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece. The second system shows the Solo voice entering with the lyrics "Set me as a". The third system shows the Solo voice continuing with the lyrics "seal up - on your heart, as a seal up - on your". The piano accompaniment provides a steady, flowing background for the vocal lines.

9

Solo

arm; _____ for love is strong as death.

Pno.

12

Solo

mf Set me as a seal up-on your

Pno.

15

1. *rit.* *a tempo* **Chorus in unison**
mf heart. Set me as a

Pno.

18 [2.] **Solo *f***

Solo heart. Man - y wa - ters can - not quench

Pno. *cresc.* *f sempre*

21 ***f***

Solo love, nei - ther can the floods

S *mf* Ma - ny wa - ters can - not quench ***f***

A *mf* Ma - ny wa - ters can - not quench ***f***

T *mf* Ma - ny

B *mf* Ma - ny

Pno.

23

Solo

drown it,

S

f sub.

love, nei-ther can the floods drown, nei-ther can the

A

mf *f*

love, nei-ther can the floods

T

f *mf* *f sub.*

8 wa - ters can - not quench love, nei-ther can the floods

B

f *mf* *f sub.*

wa - ters can - not quench love, nei-ther can the floods

Pno.

Solo

S

A

T

B

Pno.

28 *p* *pp*

Solo

it.

p *pp*

S

it.

p *pp*

A

it.

p *pp*

T

it.

p *pp*

B

it.

Pno.

p *pp*

p sempre

32

Solo and unison chorus

p

Set me as a

Pno.

35

Solo

seal up - on your heart, as a seal up - on your

Pno.

38

Solo

arm; _____ for love is strong as death.

Pno.

41

Solo

Solo alone
p

Set me as a seal up-on your

Pno.

44

Solo heart. *f* Set me as a seal up - on your_

S *f* Set me as a seal up - on your_

A *f* Set me as a seal up - on your

T *f* Set me as a seal up - on your

B *f* Set me as a seal up - on your

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

47 *mp* (Soloist may sing either line.) *pp*

Solo heart. up -

S heart. *mp* *p* Set me as a seal up - *pp*

A heart. *mp* *p* Set me as a seal up - *pp*

T heart. *mp* *p* Set me as a seal up - *pp*

B heart. *mp* *p* Set me as a seal up - *pp*

Pno. *p* niente

(cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only)

[illegible]