

PROGRAM NOTES

I Will Sing to the Stars is a three-movement work for children's chorus, piano, and optional strings. The work was commissioned by the Jacksonville Children's Chorus in conjunction with the centennial of Sara Teasdale winning the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1918. The text for this work is drawn from *Rivers to the Sea* which was published in 1915 and serves as a seminal example of women's poetry in the modern era. The texts are a vibrant collection filled with vivid imagery, expressing joy, peace, and ease.

This work opens with an energetic accompaniment, which serves as the matrix for the sprightly vocal lines that introduce the text, "I am wild, I will sing." This motive, heard first in the piano and then in the voices, starts a call and response between the voices. The music then transitions to a contrasting key, making way for a stark contrast featuring the chorus alone. The beginning theme is then reintroduced to conclude the piece, finishing with the repeated text, "I love, I am loved."

The second movement, except for a brief introduction and conclusion, is set completely for unaccompanied chorus. The text, "Peace flows into me..." is introduced on a single note, gently expanding to a fuller sonority. The next section features a straightforward declamation of the text, followed by a rhythmic ostinato that lays a foundation for legato vocal lines in the upper voices. The piece then concludes on the same single note from which it began.

The final movement briefly recalls the accompaniment from the end of the first movement which, under the guise of new rhythms, sets the stage for a new melody. This verse structure is followed by a refrain and a canon between the two voices on the text, "the air is blue and sweet." The contrasting middle section allows the voices to become the focal point on the text, "let me sing like birds, sing before night."

TEXT

Peace flows into me
As the tide to the pool by the shore;
It is mine forevermore,
It ebbs not back like the sea.
I am the pool of blue
That worships the vivid sky,
My hopes were heaven-high,
They are all fulfilled in you.
I am the pool of gold
When sunset burns and dies, —
You are my deepening skies,
Give me your stars to hold. *

Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

**This is the original poem. It has been altered for the musical setting.*

AVAILABLE EDITIONS

Joy

Piano/Choral Score	1.3548
Full Score	1.3548A
Parts	1.3548B

Peace

→ Piano/Choral Score	1.3549
Full Score	1.3549A
Parts	1.3549B

Dusk

Piano/Choral Score	1.3550
Full Score	1.3550A
Parts	1.3550B

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

For biographical information visit: www.mjtrotta.com

Catalog No. 1.3549

Commissioned by the Jacksonville Children's Chorus, Darren Dailey, Artistic Director

Peace

for SSAA Chorus, Piano, and optional Strings

Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

M. J. T., alt.

♩ = 66

(mm. 1–5 may be omitted if performing as a stand alone movement)

Piano

6 **A** *p*

S
Peace flows in - to me,

A
Peace flows in - to me,

10 *Descant* *p*

D
Peace flows in - to me,

S
peace flows in - to me,

A
peace flows in - to me,

mp

14 *mp*

S Peace flows in - to me, As the tide to the pool by the shore; It is

A Peace flows in - to me, As the tide to the pool by the shore; It is

18 *mp* Descant

D Peace flows in - to

S mine for - ev - er - more, It will not ebb like the sea.

A mine for - ev - er - more, It will not ebb like the sea.

22 *mp*

D me, peace flows, peace

S I am the pool of gold When sun - set burns and dies, You

A I am the pool of gold When sun - set burns and dies, You

end Descant

26

D
flows, _____ flows in - to me _____

S
are my deep - n'ing skies, _____ Give me your stars to hold.

A
are my deep - n'ing skies, _____ Give me your stars to hold.

30 **B** Più mosso

S

mp

A

I am _____ the pool of blue. That wor - ships the viv - id _____ sky; My hopes were heav - en - high,

33

S
mf

I am the pool _____

A
unis. *mf*

They are _____ ful - filled in _____ you. I am _____ the pool of _____ blue, I am _____ the pool of _____ blue,

36

S
unis.

of _____ blue _____ That wor - ships the

A
unis.

I am _____ the pool of _____ blue, I am _____ the pool of blue That wor - ships the viv - id _____ sky,

39

S
viv - id - sky; My

A
wor - ships the viv - id sky, wor - ships the viv - id sky, wor - ships the viv - id sky;

42
S
hopes were heav - en - high,

hopes were heav - en - high,

A
unis.
My hopes were heav - en - high, My hopes were heav - en - high, My hopes were heav - en - high,

45
S
They are all ful -

A
My hopes were heav - en - high, They are ful - filled in you,

47
S
filled in you.

A
they are ful - filled in you, they are ful - filled in you, they are ful - filled in you.

50 *f* *mp*

S They are all ful - filled, all ful - filled in you.

A They are all ful - filled, all ful - filled in you.

55 **C** *p*

S Peace flows in - to me,

A Peace flows in - to me,

60 *Descant p*

D Peace flows in - to me, peace.

S peace flows in - to me, peace.

A peace flows in - to me, peace.

65 **D** (mm. 65-73 may be omitted if performing as a stand alone movement) *mp*

69 *p*