

## 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

Evening, and all the birds  
In a chorus of shimmering sound  
Are easing their hearts of joy  
For miles around.  
The air is blue and sweet,  
The few first stars are white,  
Oh let me like the birds  
Sing before night.\*

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](http://www.mjtrotta.com)

Catalog No. 1.3550

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

# Dusk

for SSAA Chorus, Piano, and optional String Quartet

Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

M. J. T., alt.

♩ = ca. 66

Piano

5

10 **A** *mp* *unis.*

S Eve - ning, and all the birds In a cho - rus of shim - m'ring

*mp* *unis.*

A Eve - ning, and all the birds In a cho - rus of shim - m'ring

**A** (play only in absence of strings through m. 17)

13

S

sound Are eas - ing their hearts of joy —

A

sound Are eas - ing their hearts of joy



16

S

For miles a - round. The air is blue and

A

For miles a - round.

**B**

(Play)




19

S

sweet, The few first stars are

A

The air is blue and sweet,



21

S white, Oh let me like the

A The few first stars are white,

23

S birds. *unis.* Sing be - fore

A Let me sing like birds, Sing be - fore

25

S *mp* night.

A *mp* night.

29 C ♩ = ca. 72 *mp*

S Let me sing like birds, \_\_\_\_\_

A *mp* Let me sing like

C ♩ = ca. 72  
(play only in absence of strings through m. 37)

*p*

33

S sing be - fore night, sing be - fore \_\_\_\_\_

A birds, \_\_\_\_\_ sing be - fore night, sing be - fore \_\_\_\_\_

37

S night.

A night.

(Play)

**D** ♩ = ca. 66

41 *unis. mp*

S Eve - ning, and all the birds In a cho - rus of shim - m'ring

A *unis. mp*

A Eve - ning, and all the birds In a cho - rus of shim - m'ring

**D** ♩ = ca. 66

(play only in absence of strings through m. 48)

*mp*

44

S sound Are eas - ing their hearts of joy —

A sound Are eas - ing their hearts of joy —

47

S For miles a - round. The air is blue and

A For miles a - round.

(Play)

50

S sweet, The few first stars are

A The air is blue and sweet,

52

S white, Oh let me like the

A The few first stars are white,

54

S birds Sing be - fore

A let me sing like birds, Sing be - fore

56 *fp* *unis. mp*

S night. The air is blue and sweet, \_\_\_\_\_

A night. The air is

*f mp*

60 *mp* *unis. (mp)*

S The few first stars are white, Oh let me like the

A blue, the stars are white, Oh let me like the

63 *p* *p*

S birds. Sing be - fore night. \_\_\_\_\_

A birds. Sing be - fore night. \_\_\_\_\_

*p pp*