

Performance option

The following may be performed jointly to form a multi-movement work: *Teasdale Love Songs*

	SATB	SSAA
1. Listen, I love you	8801	8807
2. Love Me	8802	8808
opt. Harp Part	8802A	8808A
3. Oh day of fire and sun	8803	8809
4. The Mystery	8804	8810
5. After Love	8805	8811
6. Joy	8806	8812

Stephen Chatman (b. 1950)

For biographical information visit:
www.drstephenchatman.com

Program notes

Sara Teasdale's poem, *The Mystery*, depicts deep lasting love—"Your eyes drink of me" and "We have long been lovers." It also raises a question—"Can I ever know you /Or you know me?" Stephen Chatman's expressive setting begins with a unison melody, supported by modulating harmonies in the piano accompaniment, and evolves toward four-part voices. The middle section, featuring rising vocal lines in imitative counterpoint, precedes a return to the initial melody.

Text

Your eyes drink of me,
Love makes them shine,
Your eyes that lean
So close to mine.

We have long been lovers,
We know the range
Of each other's moods
And how they change;

But when we look
At each other so
Then we feel
How little we know;

The spirit eludes us,
Timid and free,
Can I ever know you
Or you know me?

Sara Teasdale
(1884–1933)

SATB version commissioned by Upper Canada Choristers, Laurie Evan Fraser, Director

The Mystery

for SSAA Chorus and Piano

Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Stephen Chatman (SOCAN)

Smoothly ♩ = 80

Soprano 1
Soprano 2

mp unis.
Your

Alto 1
Alto 2

mp unis.
Your

Smoothly ♩ = 80

Piano

mp

4

eyes drink of me, Love makes them shine, Your eyes that —

eyes drink of me, Love makes them shine, Your eyes that —

7

lean So close to mine. We have long been lov - ers,

lean So close to mine. We have long been lov - ers,

10

mf

We know the range Of each oth - er's moods

mf

We know the range Of each oth - er's moods

mf *p*

A little slower

♩ = 72

A little slower

♩ = 66

13 *p*

And how they change, And how they change,

p

And how they change, And how they change,

A little slower

♩ = 72

A little slower

♩ = 66

16 *pp*

S 1 And how they change; But

pp

S 2 And how they change;

pp

A 1 And how they change;

pp

A 2 And how they change;

Tempo I

♩ = 80

pp

p

19

mp

when_ we look, But when_ we look,

mp

But when, when we look,

p

mp

...we_ look, But_ when, But when we_ look,

p

mp

...we_ look, but_ when, But when we_ look, But_

23

cresc. poco a poco

mf

But_ when we look At each oth - er, At each oth - er

cresc. poco a poco

mf

But_ when we look At each oth - er, At each oth-er, At each oth-er

cresc. poco a poco

mf

But_ when we look At each oth - er, At each oth - er, At each oth-er

cresc. poco a poco

mf

when we look, But_ when we look At each oth - er, At each oth - er

cresc. poco a poco

mf

26

mp

so Then we feel How lit - tle we know, we

mp

so Then we feel How lit - tle we

mp

so Then we feel How lit - tle we know,

mp

so Then we feel How lit -

29

rit. dim.

know, we know, we know;

dim. pp

know, How lit - tle we know, How lit - tle we know;

dim. pp

How lit - tle we know, we know, lit - tle we know;

dim. pp

tle we know, lit - tle we know, we know;

rit.

$\text{♩} = 60$ *a tempo*

dim. pp mp

32

S 1 *mp* The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

S 2 *mp* The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

A 1 *mp* The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

A 2 *mp* The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

36

S 1 Tim - id and free, The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

S 2 Tim - id and free, The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

A 1 Tim - id and free, The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

A 2 Tim - id and free, The spir - it e - ludes us, ...

p

39 **A little slower** ♩ = 72

p

Can I ev - er know you Or you know me?

p

Can I ev - er know you Or you know me?

A little slower ♩ = 72

42 **Slower** ♩ = 66

pp *ten.*

can I ev - er know_ you ...know_ me?_

pp *ten.*

can I ev - er know_ you ...know_ me?_

Slower ♩ = 66

pp