

Choral Music of Karen P. Thomas

Alchemy

SATB and piano

Music by Karen P. Thomas

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karenpthomas.com

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Alchemy

In partnership with Classical Movements, as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program, this piece is jointly commissioned by a consortium of choruses to benefit the programs and services of Chorus America.

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Alchemy

I lift my heart as spring lifts up
A yellow daisy to the rain;
My heart will be a lovely cup
Altho' it holds but pain.

For I shall learn from flower and leaf
That color every drop they hold,
To change the lifeless wine of grief
To living gold.

Sara Teasdale

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Lyrics by Sara Teasdale

Music by Karen P. Thomas

♩ = 120 **lively, buoyant**

Piano

mf

col Ped.

lively, buoyant

f

cresc. poco a poco

S

A

T

B

I lift my heart as spring lifts up,

f

cresc.

f

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10

S lifts up a yel - low dais - y to the rain. *mf*

A lifts up a yel - low dais - y to the rain. *mf*

T lifts up a yel - low dais - y to the rain. *mf*

B lifts up a yel - low dais - y to the rain. *mf*

10

15

S My heart will be a love - - - ly

A My heart will be a love - - - ly

T My heart will be a love - - - ly

B My heart will be a love - - - ly

15

21

S cup, al-though it holds, it holds but *dim.*

A cup, al-though it holds, it holds but *dim.*

T cup, al-though it holds, it holds but *dim.*

B cup, al-though it holds, it holds but *dim.*

21

28 *mp*

S pain. *mp*

A pain. *mp* *legato* *mp* Lifts up, lifts

T pain. *mp* *legato* Lifts up, lifts

B pain. *mp*

28 *legato*

mp

Alchemy

34

legato mp

p

S Lifts up, lifts up, lifts up heart lifts up a

A up, lifts up, lifts up, lifts up, lifts up heart lifts up a

T 8 up, lifts up, lifts up, I lift my heart

B I lift my heart

34

mf

p

mf

39

S yel - low dais - y to the rain, lifts up, lifts up a

A yel - low dais - y to the rain, lifts up, lifts up a

T 8 as spring lifts up a

B as spring lifts up a

39

44

S yel - low dais - y, a dais - y to the rain *mf* *dim.* *mp*

A yel - low dais - y, a dais - y to the rain *mf* *dim.* *mp*

T yel - low dais - y to the rain, the rain. *dim.* *mp*

B yel - low dais - y to the rain. *dim.* *mp*

44

50

S *p* *mp* *legato* My heart will be a

A *p* *mp* *legato* My

T *p*

B *p* *mp* *legato* My heart will be a love - - - ly *p*

50

57

S love - - - ly cup a love - - - ly

A heart will be a love - - - ly cup love - ly

T *mp* *legato* My heart will be a love - - - ly

B *mp* cup, a love - - - ly cup love - ly

57

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand features a melody with triplets and slurs. The left hand provides a harmonic foundation with triplets and slurs.

63

S cup al - tho' it holds but pain.

A cup al - tho' it holds but pain.

T cup al - tho' it holds, but pain.

B cup al - tho' it holds but pain.

63

rit.

The piano accompaniment continues with the same melodic and harmonic patterns, including triplets and slurs. The right hand has a more complex texture with multiple voices.

70 *dim.* $\text{♩} = 90$ *pp* *rit.*

S

A

T

B

8

70 $\text{♩} = 90$ *pp* *rit.*

78 **Tempo Primo** $\text{♩} = 120$

S

A

T

B

8

78 **Tempo Primo** $\text{♩} = 120$ lively, buoyant

mf *cresc.*

lively, buoyant

83 *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

S For I shall learn from flow'r and leaf

A For I shall learn from flow'r and leaf

T For I shall learn from flow'r and leaf

B For I shall learn from flow'r and leaf

83 *f*

88 *dim.* *mf*

S that co - lor ev - 'ry drop they hold,

A that co - lor ev - 'ry drop they hold,

T that co - lor ev - 'ry drop they hold,

B that co - lor ev - 'ry drop they hold,

88 *dim.* *mf*

93

S For I _____ shall learn from flow'r and leaf _____ that

A For I _____ shall learn from flow'r and leaf _____ that

T For I _____ shall learn from flow'r and leaf _____ that

B For I _____ shall learn from flow'r and leaf _____ that

93

98

S col - or ev' - ry drop they hold, _____ to change the

A col - or ev' - ry drop they hold, _____ to change the

T col - or ev' - ry drop they hold, _____

B col - or ev' - ry drop they hold, _____

98

103 *mf*

S life - less wine of grief, to change the life - less wine of

A life - less wine of grief, to change the life - less wine of

T 8 life - less wine of grief,

B *mf* to change the life - less wine of grief,

103 *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 103 through 107. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano and Alto parts begin with a melodic line on measure 103, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Tenor and Bass parts enter on measure 104. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands. The lyrics are: 'life - less wine of grief, to change the life - less wine of'.

108

S grief, of grief to liv - ing, to liv -

A grief, of grief to liv - ing, to liv -

T 8 life - less wine of grief to liv - ing, to liv -

B life - less wine of grief to liv - ing, to liv -

108

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 108 through 112. The vocal parts continue the melody from the previous block. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line, while the Tenor and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are: 'grief, of grief to liv - ing, to liv -'.

114 *exuberant*

S *cresc.* *f*
ing, liv - - - ing, liv - ing

A *cresc.* *f*
ing, liv - - - ing, liv - ing

T *cresc.* *f*
ing, liv - - - ing, liv - ing

B *cresc.* *f*
ing, liv - - - ing, liv - ing

114 *exuberant*

cresc. *f*

120 *cresc.* *ff*
S gold.

A *cresc.* *ff*
gold.

T *cresc.* *ff*
gold.

B *cresc.* *ff*
gold. liv - - - ing gold.

120 *f* *mf cresc.* *f cresc.* *ff*