

Cassiopeia  
SSA, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## Cassiopeia

for SSA a cappella choir

Commissioned in 2013 by a consortium of women's choirs led by Julie Skadsem and Christine Howlett



Timothy C Takach.com

## Text:

My sister washes as I rinse and dry.  
Looking out the window, all I can see  
is in, the scene behind me,

table, now clear, our mother  
sitting in a chair, hands like  
small birds, flutter in her lap.

The light above the table, its harsh  
rings of gold glint off the wood's surface.  
I wonder if there are stars tonight—

the days thick clouds blown south  
by a Canadian wind. Wonder too  
what wish she'd make, if she could make one.

I am beyond wishing, dry the last glass instead.  
Want to bargain with time, with cancer, offer  
whatever it'll take to keep her here

with us at her side, we walk to the porch  
stars so low we can hold them in our hands  
stars to make a thousand wishes on

there, she says, is Cassiopeia. And there  
the Archer. I try to take comfort in their names,  
these constellations she's pointed out to me

all my life. Try not to hate that they'll  
still be here, on the darkest of nights,  
when she no longer is.

*- Julia Klatt Singer*

## Women's Choir Consortium

### Lead commissioners:

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club, Julie Skadsem  
Vassar College Women's Chorus, Christine Howlett

Texas Tech University Women's Chorale, Carolyn Cruse  
Free State High School Women's Choir, Hilary Morton  
Cherry Creek High School Girls' 21, Adam Cave  
Northern Arizona University Women's Chorale, Ryan Holder  
Concordia College Cantabile, Michael Culloton  
Amabile Young Women's Ensemble, Brenda Zadorsky

### Note:

In this poem, Julia doesn't let the reader know the conflict of the text until more than halfway through. Regarding this musical setting, I believe that the piece is more effective if the audience knows the text before they hear the piece. I encourage you to have the poem read in concert, or have it printed in the program and invite the audience to read it beforehand.



Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

# Cassiopeia

Julia Klatt Singer

for SSA a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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Tempo: ♩ = 76

Key: B-flat major (3 flats)

Time Signature: 4/4

Voices: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto

Measures 1-5:

Soprano 1: *mp* (nn...) *mf* (nn...) *mf* (nn...)

Soprano 2: *mp* (nn...) *mf* (nn...)

Alto: *mp* *mf* (nn...) *mf* (nn...)

Measures 6-9:

S1: *mp* (nn...) *mf* *mp*

S2: *mp* (nn...) *mf* *mp*

A: *mp* (nn...) *mf* *mp*

Measures 10-13:

S1: *p* My sis - ter wash - es as I rinse and dry. — Look - ing out the win - dow, —

S2: *p* My sis - ter wash - es as I rinse and dry. — Look - ing out the win - dow, —

A: *p* My sis - ter wash - es as I rinse and dry. — Look - ing out the win - dow, —

Annotations: *no breath, "s" on the rest*



13 *mp* *mf*

S 1 all I can see is in, the scene be - hind me, —

S 2 *mp* *mf* all I can see is in, the scene be - hind me, —

A *mp* *mf* all I can see is in, the scene be - hind me, —

16 *mp*

S 1 ta - ble, now clear, — our moth - er sit - ting in a chair, hands — like — small —

S 2 *mp* ta - ble, now clear, — our moth - er sit - ting in a chair, hands like small —

A *mp* ta - ble, now clear, — our moth - er sit - ting in a chair, hands — like small —

19 *ritard* *mf* *mp* *a tempo* *mf* *f*

S 1 birds, flut - ter in her lap. The light a - bove the ta - ble, its harsh — rings of

S 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* birds, flut - ter in her lap. The light a - bove the ta - ble, its harsh — rings of

A *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* birds, flut - ter in her lap. The light a - bove the ta - ble, its harsh rings of

24 *mp* *mf*

S 1 gold \_\_\_\_\_ glint off the wood's \_\_\_\_\_ sur - face. I \_\_\_\_\_

S 2 *mp* *mf* gold \_\_\_\_\_ glint off the wood's \_\_\_\_\_ sur - face. I \_\_\_\_\_

A *mp* *mf* gold \_\_\_\_\_ glint off the wood's \_\_\_\_\_ sur - face. I \_\_\_\_\_

29 *f* *mp* *p*

S 1 won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ to - night - I won - der...

S 2 *f* *mp* *p* won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ to - night - I won - der...

A *f* *mp* *p* won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ to - night - I won - der... I

35  $\text{♩} = 64$  *p* *mf*

S 1 I won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ the

S 2 *p* I won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ to - night - I won - der if there are

A *p* *3* won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ to - night - I

38

S 1 *mf* days \_\_\_\_\_ thick clouds \_\_\_\_\_ blown south by a Can -

S 2 *mf* days \_\_\_\_\_ thick clouds \_\_\_\_\_ blown south by a Can -

A *mf* *sp* *mp* *3* won-der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ I won-der if there are stars won-der and won-der if there are

41

S 1 *f* a - di - an wind. Ah... Won - der too what

S 2 *f* a - di - an wind. there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ Won - der too what

A *f* stars \_\_\_\_\_ I won - der if there are stars \_\_\_\_\_ Won - der too what

45 *mp*  $\text{♩} = 80$  *mf* *mf*

S 1 *mp* wish she'd make, Ah... *mf*

S 2 *mp* wish she'd make, if she could make one. Ah... Ah... *mf*

A *mp* wish she'd make, Ah... Ah... *mf*

51

S 1 *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
Ah... Ah...

S 2 *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
Ah... Ah...

A *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* recitative  
Ah... I am be-yond

56

S 1 Ah...

S 2 Ah...

A wish - ing, dry the last glass an - stead. Want to bar - gain with time, with

60

S 1 *pp*  
Ah... with us at her side, we

S 2 *pp*  
Ah... us at her side, we

A *mp* *p* *pp*  
can-cer, of - fer what - ev - er it'll take to keep her here with us at her side, we

65 *mp* *pp*

S 1 walk to the porch stars so low we can hold them in our hands

S 2 walk to the porch stars so low we can hold them in our hands

A walk to the porch stars so — low we can hold in our hands stars — *mf*

68 *accel.* *mf* *rit.* *a tempo*

S 1 stars to make a thou - sand wish - es on

S 2 stars to make a thou - sand wish - es on

A stars to make a thou - sand wish - es on

71 *f* *warmly* *ff* *f* (Bb only if beautiful!)

S 1 there, Cas - si - o - pe - ia. And there the Arch - er. I

S 2 there, she says, is Cas - si - o - pe - ia. And there the Arch - er. I

A there, she says, is Cas - si - o - pe - ia. And there the Arch - er. I



75 *rit.* ..... ♩ = 76

S 1 try to take com - fort in their names, these con - stel - la - tions she's point - ed

S 2 try to take com - fort in their names, these con - stel - la - tions she's point - ed

A try to take com - fort in their names, she's point - ed

79 *mf* *mp*

S 1 out to me all my life. Try not to hate that they'll still be

S 2 out to me all my life. Try not to hate that they'll still be

A out to me all my life. (nn...)

82 ♩ = 72 *mf* *p* *mp*

S 1 here, on the dark - est of nights, the dark - est nights, when she no

S 2 here, on the dark - est of nights, the dark - est nights, when she no

A — on the dark - est the dark - est nights, when she no

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## Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

### Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Epitaph		SATB, viola
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

### Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

### Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB chorus a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTTBBB a cappella

### Large Works

We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano