

Twenty Questions from Where Beauty Comes From

for 2-part treble voices and piano

I. Paper Cranes (TBB)
II. Twenty Questions (2-part treble)
III. Before We Get Dusty (SSAA)
IV. Where Beauty Comes From (SATB)

Commissioned for Healing and Hope Through Song, a program of the American Composers Forum, with partial funding provided by Saint Paul Cultural STAR. Premiered by the Minnesota Boychoir, Mark Johnson, Artistic Director.



Text:

When you're in a hospital bed There's not much to do So you study the numbers, follows the tubes, ask yourself questions, like

Do elephants have belly buttons? Do pandas like peanuts? Do you think I'll lose my smile, when I'm a grown up?

The nurses keep going home every day.
Just stay for one, then a new one comes.

Twenty questions, it's just a game It says it can read my mind But it doesn't even know what I'm talking about.

Don't want to think about all the things I'm missing, all the time I'm spending here. Don't want to think, so instead

How many flavors of ice cream Are there in the world? What would a red whale look like, in a red sea?

When you're in a hospital bed There's not much to do So you memorize your arm band, the tune the I.V. sings. Daddy ate a birthday candle Just for fun. Mom tells me she's seen me do the bravest things.

You ask me if it's hard to be here in this bed. I tell you life is hard, no matter where you're living it.

I do know this
No game can prove me wrong
There is so much happy
and sad, so all of a sudden
& there isn't anything
we wouldn't do
for each other.

- Julia Klatt Singer (2010)

From the composer:

In 2010, poet Julia Klatt Singer and I spent time talking with some of the patients at the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Our project was to listen to their words and stories, and create music from their experiences. "Twenty Questions" is part of the 4 movement cycle "Where Beauty Comes From," written for the Minnesota Boychoir. In this song, questions become a fun means of escape - the "yes or no" queries from the electronic game Twenty Questions seem so trivial when compared to the more ambiguous questions hanging in the air. The patient makes up their own questions - silly ones to help pass the time. Musically, the escapism of making up questions happens in a jaunty 5/4 meter, while the 4/4 sections bring us back down to reality.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2010



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.

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Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

S	A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
Ö	A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
0	All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
Mixed Voices	All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
	And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
	As the Sunflower Turns on Her God	S	SAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
\leq	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
(O	A. J.I.C		CCAA J
Φ O	And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Treble Voices	Cassiopeia		SSA aboin Phyloginat pione
>	Goodbye, Then	(Craphita Publishing)	SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
_Φ	Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song) Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing) (Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano SA choir, piano
9	Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
Ĕ	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
	Tom map	(Graphic rubhshing)	2-part tiebie, piano
S	All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Men's Voices	Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
9	Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
S	Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
	I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
e	It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
2	Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
	Mad		TBB, piano
	Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male	
	Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB chorus a cappela
	She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co	
	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 R	ising Sun)	TTTBBB a cappella
S	We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Fo	orever (ca. 10')	TTBB a cappella
궃	The Longest Nights (ca. 21')	SATB, piano or string quartet	
Works	Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano
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