

Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay

Original Somali text by Ahmed Yusuf

for 2-part choir and piano

Commissioned by Minneapolis Public Schools in honor of Dr. Bernadeia Johnson and her service to our students.



Text:

Bahihii waaliidkay dhaqay Biyihii Ceerigaaboodeey Baxsan Daalaheediiyeey Bilcaneey Calmadow culaneey Beri mudan bil Soomaaleey Boggay igaga taalleey

Bisinkee bilicda lagu aragyoo Belaayada laga xijaabaayee Haddaba buugga iyo waxbarashada Bustena ugu dhiga ha bogatee

Beledsame bil Minasoota ah Beryo samo ku joognaaeey

- Ahmed Ismail Yusuf

Translation:

My parents' origin land Ceerigaabo's unique spring water The marvelous, main Daalo landscape The gorgeous evergreen Cal-madow And Somali's peaceful past These are in my heart and hold it firm

In the name of the gracefully affirmed Who guards against all ill will With books of all knowledge Surround our students and give comfort.

But we are safe in Minnesota now Safe and sound as a soul in a house could be

- Translation by Ahmed Ismail Yusuf

Notes from the composer:

I was excited and nervous to write a piece in Somali, but working with Ahmed was a great asset. From the beginning, we both wanted to create something that was rooted in Somalia's culture but also had our own thumbprints on it. When he was reading me the text he had written, it was second nature for him to read the words with a sense of melodic gesture and rhythm already attached to them. So my job became to capture his sense of meter and shape, and create an original piece using that DNA as my starting block.

In my research I learned that Somali music is often tied to dancing, and strong rhythms pervade the music. So as I wrote for choir and piano, I tried to keep the music in the folk tradition as much as possible. Syncopations, chest voice range, driving rhythms, call and response, and body percussion all keep this piece from feeling too polished, too classical.

- Timothy C. Takach (2016)

Notes from the poet:

This song is modeled after a well-known folklore dance in the Sanaag region of Somalia. The famous dance is shared by multiple clans for various joyous occasions: weddings, child birth and anniversary ceremonies as well to welcome guests of honor. Simple clapping hands and stamping the feet produce pleasant harmony called habdhac in Somali. The folklore dance itself is called Erigabo Dance or *Ciyaar Ceerigaabo* in Somali.

- Ahmed Ismail Yusuf (2016)































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. Paul Chamber Orchestra, 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, and 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.

(earthsongs)

(Graphite Publishing)

(Graphite Publishing)

(Graphite Publishing)

(Lorelei Ensemble)

(Colla Voce)

(Graphite Publishing)

(Graphite Publishing)

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

A Depth We Cannot Sound A Worshipper and a Man

And I Saw As the Sunflower Turns on Her God

The Darkling Thrush

Fragile

Listen to the Apples

Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius

One Boy Told Me

Ragnarök

Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)

This Alien Landscape This Amazing Life

And I Saw

Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay

Cassiopeia

Queen of the Range

The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song) There is No Rose

Torn Map

Twenty Questions

All Natures, Even Mine

Empty

Goodbye, Then I Will Howl

Kin

Luceat Eis Mad

Original Harmony

Rough Beast

Salve Regina

Things I Didn't Know I Loved

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')

This is How You Love (ca. 35') True North (ca. 16')

We, the Unknown (ca. 40')

We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')

Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')

SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom

SATB a cappella

SATB div. a cappella

SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella

SATB, SAT soli, a cappella

SATB, hand drum

SATB div. a cappella (Graphite Publishing)

SSATBB a cappella SSATBB a cappella

SATB, piano

SATB div. a cappella

SSAATTBB a cappella

SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum

SA(T)B, piano

SSAA div. a cappella

2-part, piano

SSA a cappella

SA, piano

Unison, TTB, piano SSAA, SS soli, a cappella

SA, piano

2-part treble, piano

TTTBB a cappella

TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe

TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano

TBB choir, piano or cello

TB, piano

TTTBB a cappella

TB, piano

TTBB a cappella

TTBB, percussion

TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella

TTBB a cappella

SATB, piano or string quartet

SATB div. a cappella SATB, chamber orchestra

TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra

TTBB a cappella

TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano

