Joshua Shank

Daughter Ecstatic

for a cappella SATB choir, soli quartet



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From the Composer:

One of the warhorses of choral repertoire for the "holiday" season has always been Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*. I love this piece dearly but I've always felt it suffered from a bit of overexposure so, when I was asked to write something for a December concert series, I jumped at the chance to update something from the old warhorse. What I ended up deciding on was a soprano aria from Handel's piece and then tried "deconstructing" the basic elements before folding them into my own harmonic language. It begins with an ecstatic explosion of sound from the choir which eventually settles down into the recognizable melodies from the aria. The middle section collapses into a soli quartet before the choir signals the return of the original material.

"Daughter Ecstatic" was commissioned by The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists (Matthew Culloton, conductor) and received its premiere on December 4, 2010.

- Joshua Shank, 2017

Text:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior...And he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

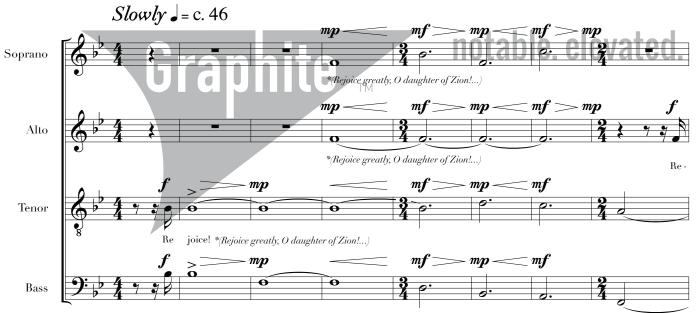
- Zechariah 9:9, 10

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Zechariah 9: 9, 10

for SATB choir and soli quartet

Joshua Shank (after Handel)



Re - joice! *(Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!...)

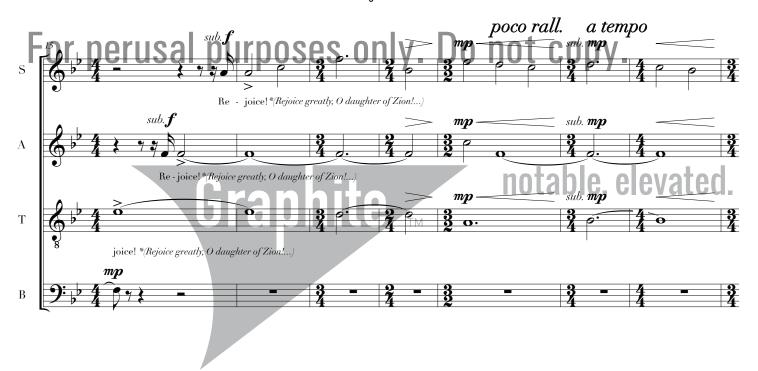


* Each singer should repeat this text as fast as they can immediately after entering. If a first "Rejoice!" is notated, it should hold together for only a split second before it dissolves into murmuring.

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Please report performances of this piece to composer at joshua@joshuashank.com





^{**} Slow the repetitions down over about 5 seconds until the singers are holding the final vowel of the phrase, then decescendo into nothing.









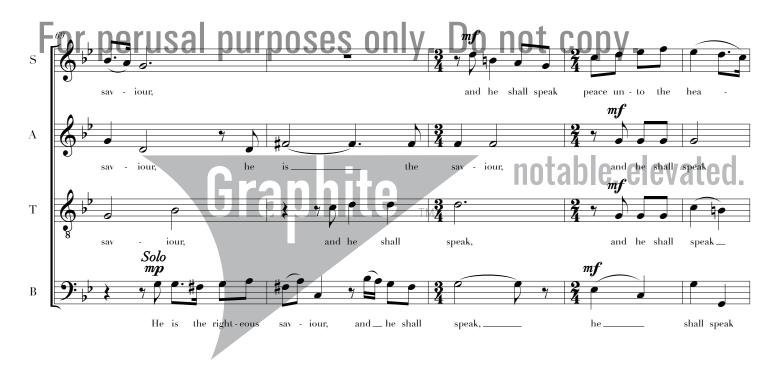




^{*} Start with one voice and gradually add the entire section, singing the fragments at the same tempo but at different times. Singers should enter when the person next to them sings the final note of the phrase so that the effect fans out among the choir, rather than suddenly erupting in a wall of singing.

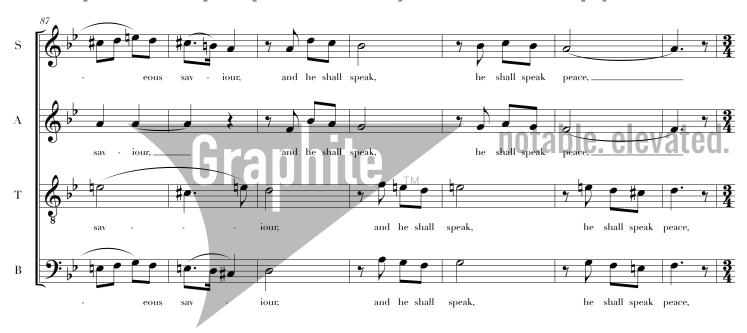








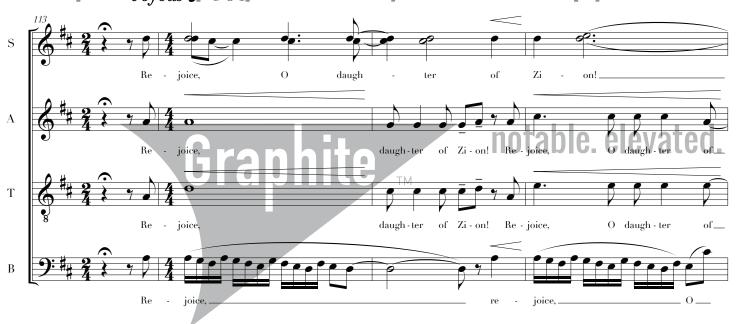








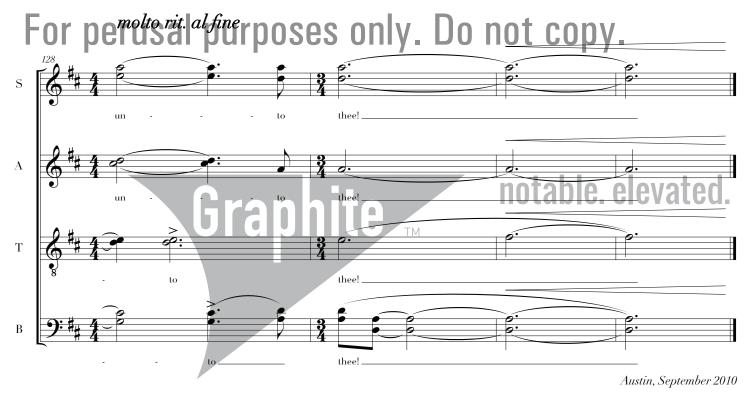


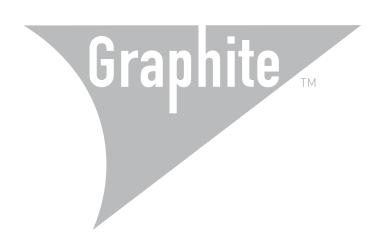






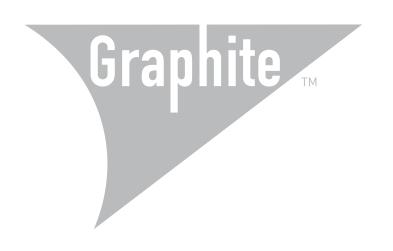






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Joshua Shank



Joshua Shank (b. 1980) has been commissioned by organizations such as the Lorelei Ensemble, the Choral Project, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Association for Music in International Schools. From 2004-2014, he served as Composers In-Residence for the Minneapolis-based professional choir, The Singers, where he collaborated annually to expand and invigorate the repertoire for professional-caliber ensembles through innovative programming as well as new works written specifically for the ensemble. In 2002, he became the youngest recipient ever of the Raymond W. Brock Composition Award from the American Choral Directors Association. A native of Minnesota, his music was recently featured in a documentary about the extensive choral tradition in the upper Midwest, *Never Stop Singing*, and his published works have sold over 150,000 copies worldwide.

Joshua received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from Luther College where he studied conducting with Weston Noble. He has also earned master's and doctoral degrees in Musicology and Composition from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied with Donald Grantham and the late opera composer Daniel Catán. A fierce advocate for students' access to music education, he served as a public-school teacher in Minneapolis/St. Paul for many years before going on to teach at

Gonzaga University, Valley City State University, and Eastern Washington University. When he's not writing music, you can probably find him biking, studying vegetarian cooking, or watching hilariously bad movies.

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