

The Footsteps of the Gardener
GP - S005
SAB, piano

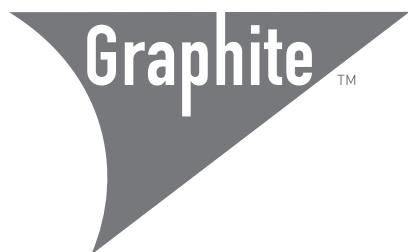
Joshua Shank

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Joshua Shank

The Footsteps of the Gardener

for SAB choir and piano



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From the Composer:

The first job I took after finishing my undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education was as a high school choir teacher but, to date, the only grade I've never taught ranging from kindergarteners to graduate students is seventh (though I've conducted some very talented seventh graders in honor choirs over the years!). This is to say that, as a composer who is sometimes commissioned to write something that will be presented by an ensemble sponsored by an educational institution, I tend to fall back on how my music might be used to teach concepts both musical and non-musical.

"The Footsteps of the Gardener" was the first time I decided to actively knit this notion into the piece in an unsubtle way so, in a nod to educational concepts like the Theory of Multiple Intelligences or Neil Fleming's work on learning styles as well as the music of American composer, Michael Torke, I decided to have the musical material "work out" the short Chinese proverb in a few different ways I found interesting and exciting to perform. I could list all the methods I used, but I think it might fit more with the spirit of the work's composition to see if the singers can figure them out themselves!

- Joshua Shank, 2018

Text:

The best fertilizer is the footsteps of the gardener.

- *Chinese Proverb*

Performance notes:

For clarity's sake, the pedal markings only includ the times when the sostenuto pedal should be depressed. Only take a breath where marked by a rest or breath mark.

*Commissioned by the South Saint Paul High School Concert Choir
Chad Lindblom, Conductor*

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The Footsteps of the Gardener

for SAB choir and piano

Chinese Proverb

notable. elevated.
Joshua Shank

Soprano

Alto

Baritone

Piano

mf

mp

8va

Red.

notable. elevated.

notable. elevated.

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

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Graphite

notable. elevated.

Soprano (S) 6 *mf*

The _____ best _____

Alto (A) *mf*

The _____ best _____

Bass (B) *mf*

The _____ best _____

Piano (Pno.) 6 (8va)

fer - ti - li - zer - is the

This page contains musical notation for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and piano. The vocal parts are in common time, key signature of A major (three sharps). The piano part is also in common time, key signature of A major. The vocal parts enter at measure 6, singing eighth-note chords. The piano part begins earlier, with sixteenth-note patterns. The lyrics 'The best' are written above the vocal entries, and 'notable. elevated.' is written across the middle of the page. Measure numbers 6 and 11 are indicated above the staff lines.

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Soprano (S) 11

fer - ti - li - zer - is the

Alto (A)

fer - ti - li - zer - is the foot -

Bass (B)

fer - ti - li - zer - is the foot -

Piano (Pno.) 11 (8va)

fer - ti - li - zer - is the foot -

This page continues the musical score from the previous page. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Bass) sing eighth-note chords starting at measure 11. The piano part continues its sixteenth-note patterns. The lyrics 'fer - ti - li - zer - is the' are written below the vocal entries, and 'notable. elevated.' is written across the middle of the page. Measure numbers 11 and 12 are indicated above the staff lines.

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

16 foot steps of the gard - 'ner.

Alto (A) vocal line:

steps of the gard - 'ner.

Bass (B) vocal line:

steps of the gard - 'ner.

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

16 (8va) - A series of eighth-note chords in G major, starting with a C major chord.

25 the the best fer - ti -
 mf

21 the the best fer - ti -
 mf

21 the the best fer - li -
 mf

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A vocal line:

21 - - - - - the the best fer - ti -

B vocal line:

21 - - - - - the the best fer - li -

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

21 - - - - - A series of eighth-note chords in G major, starting with a C major chord. The piano part ends with a fermata over the last note and the instruction "Red."

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the the best fer - ti - li - zer is — the

Alto (A) vocal line:

li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the the best fer - ti - li - zer is — the

Bass (B) vocal line:

li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the the best fer - ti - li - zer is — the

Piano (Pno.) piano line:

26

26

26

v. R\#

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the

Alto (A) vocal line:

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps

Bass (B) vocal line:

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the the best fer - ti -

Piano (Pno.) piano line:

31

31

31

v. R\#

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36

Soprano (S) vocal line:

gard - 'ner. best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot-steps of the gard - 'ner. The fer - ti -

Alto (A) vocal line:

of the gard - 'ner. The fer - ti - li - zer, The best fer - ti - li - zer is the

Bass (B) vocal line:

li - zer is the foot-steps of the gard - 'ner — the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

Piano (Pno.) harmonic support:

Accompaniment pattern: $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$

41

Soprano (S) vocal line:

li - zer is the foot - steps the gard - 'ner. The best

Alto (A) vocal line:

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best

Bass (B) vocal line:

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best

Piano (Pno.) harmonic support:

Accompaniment pattern: $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \text{F} & \text{A} \\ \text{D} & \text{G} \end{matrix}$

8va

f

46

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

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Musical score for four voices (Soprano S, Alto A, Bass B) and piano (Pno). The key signature is three sharps (F major), and the time signature is common time. The vocal parts sing a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the piano provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The vocal line consists of the lyrics "fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps". The piano part includes dynamic markings like "f" and "p", and performance instructions like "Ped." (pedal) and "(8va)".

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Musical score continuation for the same ensemble. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics "of the gard - 'ner.". The piano part maintains its harmonic function with eighth-note chords, and the dynamic level remains consistent with the previous section. The piano part includes dynamic markings like "f" and "p", and performance instructions like "Ped." (pedal) and "(8va)".

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60

Soprano (S) Treble clef, 3 sharps, measure 57: Rest. Measure 60: *mf*, eighth-note patterns. Text: "the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the".
Alto (A) Treble clef, 3 sharps, measure 57: Rest. Measure 60: *mf*, eighth-note patterns. Text: "the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the".
Bass (B) Bass clef, 3 sharps, measure 57: Rest. Measure 60: *mf*, eighth-note patterns. Text: "the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the".
Piano (Pno.) Bass clef, 3 sharps, measure 57: Eighth-note patterns. Measure 60: *mf*, eighth-note patterns.
Text: "the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the".

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62

Soprano (S) Treble clef, 3 sharps, measure 62: Eighth-note patterns. Text: "foot - steps of the gard - ener. the the best best fer - fer - ti - ti - li - li - zer - zer".
Alto (A) Treble clef, 3 sharps, measure 62: Eighth-note patterns. Text: "foot - steps of the gard - ener. the the best best fer - fer - ti - ti - li - li - zer - zer".
Bass (B) Bass clef, 3 sharps, measure 62: Eighth-note patterns. Text: "foot - steps of the gard - ener. the the best best fer - fer - ti - ti - li - li - zer - zer".
Piano (Pno.) Bass clef, 3 sharps, measure 62: Eighth-note patterns. Measure 63: *TM*, quarter-note chords. Measure 64: *Re.*

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

A Alto (A) vocal line:

B Bass (B) vocal line:

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

Rehearsal marks: 67, 2nd ending (2o.)

Text lyrics: "is is the the foot foot steps steps of of the the gard gard 'ner 'ner." (repeated)

Vocal parts (A, B) continue with lyrics: "the gard 'ner. of the gard 'ner."

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment continues with dynamic markings: *mf*, *mf*, *mf*, *mp*, TM, *2o.*

Text lyrics: "the gard 'ner. of the gard 'ner."

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78

S steps of the gard - 'ner. foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

A steps of the gard - 'ner. foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

B steps of the gard - 'ner. foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

Pno. *Rd.* *Rd.*

83

S foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

A foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

B foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

Pno. *Rd.*

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87

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: "ner. — zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: "ner. — zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: "ner. — zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Piano (Pno.) harmonic support.

Reo.

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91

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: "li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: "li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: "li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —".

Piano (Pno.) harmonic support.

94

mf

Reo.

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Soprano (S) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ fer - ti -

Alto (A) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ fer - ti -

Bass (B) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ fer - ti -

Piano (Pno) part:

Measure 95: The piano part consists of eighth-note chords. Measure 99: The piano part continues with eighth-note chords, ending with a repeat sign (double bar line with 'Re.') and a fermata over the final note.

Soprano (S) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ best fer - ti -

Alto (A) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ best fer - ti -

Bass (B) part:

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ best fer - ti -

Piano (Pno) part:

Measure 99: The piano part consists of eighth-note chords. Measure 103: The piano part continues with eighth-note chords, ending with a repeat sign (double bar line with 'Re.') and a fermata over the final note.

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103

S li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The best fer - ti -

A li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The best fer - ti -

B li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The best fer - ti -

Pno. 103 *Rédo.*

Graphite *notable. elevated.*

107

S li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The the best fer - ti - *f*

A li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The the best fer - ti - *f*

B li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ The the best fer - ti - *f*

Pno. 107 TM *f*

Graphite *notable elevated*

Rédo.

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S

A

B

Pno.

III

Rwd.

Rwd.

118

115

S

A

B

The best

ff

118

The best

ff

The best

notable. elevated.

115

Soprano (S)

Alto (A)

Bass (B)

Piano (Pno)

8va

ff

The best

notable. elevated.

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

A (Alto) vocal line:

Bass (B) vocal line:

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

Tempo: L20

(8va) dynamic marking

Vivace (Viv.) dynamic marking

Repetitions indicated by "Re." below the staff.

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Soprano (S) vocal line:

Alto (A) vocal line:

Bass (B) vocal line:

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

Tempo: L25

(8va) dynamic marking

Vivace (Viv.) dynamic marking

Repetitions indicated by "Re." below the staff.

130

S The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

A The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

B The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the

Pno. 130 f

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134 ff

S gard ner.

A gard 'ner.

B gard bring out 'ner.

Pno. 134 ff

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Soprano (S) 136

Alto (A)

Bass (B)

Piano (Pno.) 137

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Soprano (S) 140

The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —

Alto (A)

The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —

Bass (B)

The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. —

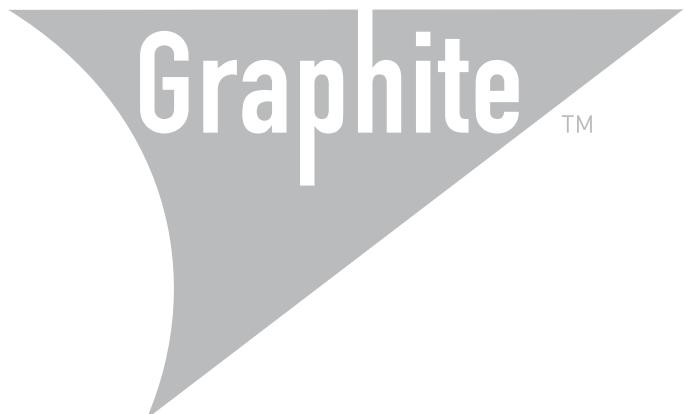
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Piano (Pno.) 140

ff

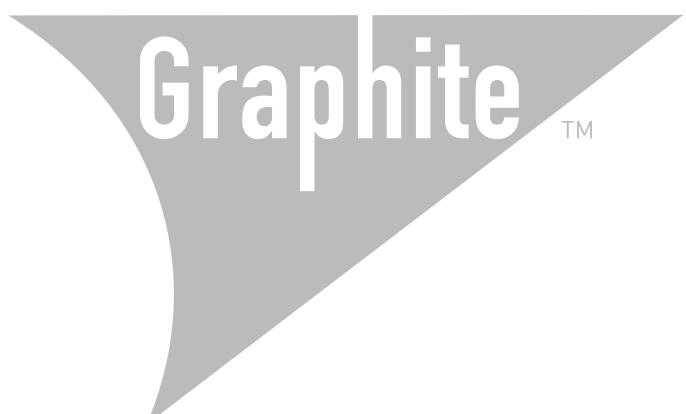
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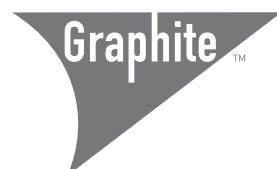


Joshua Shank (b. 1980) has been commissioned by organizations such as the Lorelei Ensemble, the Choral Project, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Association for Music in International Schools. From 2004-2014, he served as Composers-In-Residence for the Minneapolis-based professional 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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Joe Twist	GP-T020	Hymn of Ancient Lands	SATB (div), S solo a cappella
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