

Things I Didn't Know I Loved  
GP - T009  
TTBB choir, a cappella

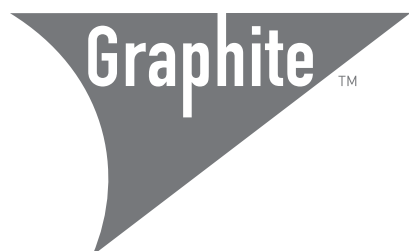
Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## Things I Didn't Know I Loved

for TTBB a cappella choir



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## Program Note:

“In Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet’s semi-autobiographical poem, a man just released from prison looks out the window of a train. As he travels, he realizes that he has forgotten so many wonderful things in the world while he was away. He mentions quite a few specific memories in a stream of consciousness style, and the unifying element that links them together is the consistent lens of the train window. I wrote unique music for each of the different musings, so each memory has its own voice. Although this work is through-composed, the repeating half-step motive that emerges throughout the music conjures up the movement of the train and links all of the separate contemplations together. Wherever each memory takes us, we are always called back to the view through the train window. In the end it is clear that the narrator has not fallen back in love with these singular things – he has fallen in love with life itself.”

- Timothy C. Takach (2008, from the liner notes for Cantus’ 2008 recording “While You Are Alive”)

## Text:

it’s 1962 March 28th  
I’m sitting by the window on the Prague-Berlin train  
night is falling

I never knew I liked  
night descending like a tired bird on a smoky wet plain  
I don’t like  
comparing nightfall to a tired bird

And here I’ve loved rivers all this time  
Whether motionless like this they curl  
skirting the hills  
European hills crowned with chateaus  
Or whether stretched out flat as far as the eye can see  
I know this has troubled people before  
And will trouble those after me  
I know all this has been said a thousand  
times before  
And will be said after me

Flowers come to mind for some reason  
Poppies cactuses jonquils  
In the jonquil garden in Kadikoy Istanbul  
I kissed Marika  
Fresh almonds on her breath  
I was seventeen  
My heart on a swing touched the sky  
I didn’t know I loved flowers  
Friends sent me three red carnations in prison

I just remembered the stars  
I love them too  
Whether I’m floored watching them from below  
Or whether I’m flying at their side

Snow flashes in front of my eyes  
Both heavy wet steady snow and the dry whirling kind  
I didn’t know I liked snow

I never knew I loved the sun  
Even when setting cherry-red as now  
In Istanbul too it sometimes sets in postcard colors  
But you aren’t about to paint it that way

I didn’t know I loved the sea  
Except the Sea of Azov  
Or how much

I didn’t know I loved clouds  
Whether I’m under or up above them  
whether they look like giants or shaggy white beasts  
moonlight  
strikes me  
I like it

I didn’t know I liked rain  
Whether it falls like a fine net or splatters against the  
glass  
my heart leaves me tangled up in a net or  
trapped inside a drop and takes off for  
uncharted countries I didn’t know I loved  
rain but why did I suddenly discover all  
these passions sitting by the window on  
the Prague-Berlin train  
is it because I’m half-dead from thinking about  
someone back in Moscow  
her hair straw-blond eyelashes blue

The train plunges on through the pitch-black night  
I never knew I liked the night pitch-black  
sparks fly from the engine  
I didn’t know I loved sparks  
I didn’t know I loved so many things and I had to wait  
until sixty to find it out sitting by the window on  
the Prague-Berlin train watching the world  
disappear as if on a journey of no return

- Nazim Hikmet, “Things I Didn’t Know I  
Loved” appears in *Poems of Nazim Hikmet*,  
translated by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk.  
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# Things I Didn't Know I Loved

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Nazim Hikmet

TTBB Chorus a cappella

Timothy C. Takach (2001)

*♩ = 80* *mf*

Tenor 1  
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Tenor 2  
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Baritone  
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Bass  
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

6

T 1  
win-dow on the Prague - - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing I

T 2  
win-dow on the Prague - - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing

Bar.  
win-dow on the Prague - - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing I

B  
win-dow on the Prague - - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing

*f* *p* *mf*

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For questions about this piece and to report performances, contact  
Timothy C. Takach at [tim@timothyctakach.com](mailto:tim@timothyctakach.com).

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12 *mp*

T 1  
nev - er knew I liked night de - scend - ing like a tir - ed bird on a smok - y wet plain

T 2  
night de - scend - ing like a tir - ed bird on a smok - y wet plain

Bar.  
nev - er knew I liked night like a bird on a plain

B  
night like a bird on a plain

16

T 1  
I don't like com - par - ing night - fall to a tir - ed bird

T 2  
I don't like com - par - ing night - fall to a tir - ed bird

Bar.  
I don't like night - fall to a tir - ed bird

B  
I don't like night - fall to a tir - ed bird

19 *mf*

T 1  
oo oo

T 2  
oo oo

Bar.  
*f*  
and here I've loved riv - ers all this time wheth - er motion - less like this they

B  
*mf*  
oo oo

27

T 1 *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

T 2 *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

Bar. *f* curl skirt - ing the hills Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

B *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha

32 *slower mp legato*

T 1 teaus or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see

T 2 *slower mp legato* teaus or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see

Bar. *slower mp legato* teaus or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see I *solo mf*

B *slower mp legato* teaus or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see I *solo mf*

36 *solo legato*

T 1 I

T 2 *solo legato* I

Bar. *legato* know this has trou - bled peo - ple be - fore and will trou - ble those af - ter me I

B *legato* know this has trou - bled peo - ple be - fore and will trou - ble those af - ter me I

40

T 1 know all this has been said a thousand times be - fore and will be said

T 2 know all this has been said a thousand times be - fore and will be said

Bar. know all this has been said a thousand times be - fore and will be said

B know all this has been said a thousand times be - fore and will be said

45 *tutti f*

T 1 af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son

T 2 af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son

Bar. af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son

B af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son

48 *p*

T 1 pop - pies cac - tus - es jon - quils

T 2 pop - pies cac - tus - ses jon - quils in the jon - quil gar - den in

Bar. pop - pies cac - tus - ses jon - quils in

B pop - pies cac - tus - ses jon - quils in

50 *f*

T 1 I kissed Ma - ri - ka fresh al-mondson her breath

T 2 Kad - i - koy, Is - tan - bul I kissed Ma - ri - ka fresh al-mondson her breath

Bar. Kad - i - koy, Is - tan - bul I kissed Ma - ri - ka on her breath

B Is - tan - bul

53 *ritard* *mp*

T 1 I was sev - en - teen my heart on a string touched the sky

T 2 I was sev - en - teen my heart on a string touched the sky I did - n't know I loved flow - ers

Bar. I was sev - en - teen I touched the sky

B *mf* my heart touched the sky

56 *solo mf* *a tempo tutti p*

T 1 friends sent me three red car - na - tions in pri - son I just re -

T 2 friends sent me three red car - na - tions in pri - son I just re -

Bar. I re -

B I re -

61

T 1  
8 mem-bered the stars I love them too wheth-er I'm floored watch-ing them from be -

T 2  
8 mem-bered the stars I love them too wheth-er I'm floored watch-ing them from be -

Bar.  
mem - ber I love them I watch them

B  
mem - ber I love them I watch them

64

T 1  
8 low or wheth-er I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash-es in

T 2  
8 low or wheth-er I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash-es in

Bar.  
I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash-es in

B  
I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash-es in

68

T 1  
8 front of my eyes and the dry whirl-ing kind I

T 2  
8 front of my eyes and the dry whirl-ing kind I

Bar.  
front of my eyes both heav-y wet stead-y snow and the dry whirl-ing kind I

B  
front of my eyes I did-n't know I liked snow I



71 *ritard*

T 1 nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

T 2 nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

Bar. nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

B nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

75 *p* *legato*  $\text{♩} = 76$

T 1 now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

T 2 now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

Bar. now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

B now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

79 *mf* *p*

T 1 you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

T 2 you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

Bar. you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

B you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

83 *mf*

T 1 sea of Az - ov or how much I did - n't know I loved clouds wheth - er I'm

T 2 sea of Az - ov or how much I did - n't know I loved clouds wheth - er I'm

Bar. sea of Az - ov or how I loved clouds wheth - er I'm

B sea of Az - ov or how I loved clouds wheth - er I'm

87 *mf*

T 1 un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

T 2 un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

Bar. un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

B un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

90 *mp* *mf*

T 1 shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

T 2 shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

Bar. shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

B shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

95

T 1  
8 did - n't know I liked rain wheth - er it falls like - a fine net or

T 2  
8 did - n't know I liked rain wheth - er it falls like a fine net or

Bar.  
8 did - n't know I liked rain wheth - er it falls like a fine net or

B  
8 did - n't know I liked rain wheth - er it falls like a fine net or

99

T 1  
8 splat - ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan - gled up in a net or trapped in - *sub. p*

T 2  
8 splat - ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan - gled up in a net or trapped in - *sub. p*

Bar.  
8 splat - ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan - gled up in a net or trapped in - *sub. p*

B  
8 splat - ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan - gled up in a net or trapped in - *sub. p*

102

T 1  
8 side a drop and takes off for un - char - ted coun - tries I did - n't know I loved

T 2  
8 side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun - tries I did - n't know I loved

Bar.  
8 side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun - tries I did - n't know I loved

B  
8 side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun - tries I did - n't know I loved

106

T 1  
rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

T 2  
rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

Bar.  
rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

B  
rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

110 *f*

T 1  
sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

T 2  
*f*  
sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

Bar.  
*f*  
sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

B  
*f*  
sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

113

T 1  
it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one back in Mos - cow her

T 2  
it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one back in Mos - cow her

Bar.  
it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one back in Mos - cow her

B  
it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one back in Mos - cow her

116 *mp* *f*

T 1 hairstraw-blond eye - lash - es blue the train plung - es on through the

T 2 hairstraw-blond eye - lash - es blue the train plung - es on through the

Bar. hair blond and blue <sup>TM</sup> the train plung - es on through the

B hair blond and blue the train plung - es on through the

119

T 1 pitch - black night I ne - ver knew I liked the night pitch - black

T 2 pitch - black night

Bar. pitch - black night

B pitch - black night I knew I liked \_\_\_\_\_

122 *ff* *ff* *ff*

T 1 sparks fly from the en-gine I did - n't know I loved sparks I did - n't know I loved so

T 2 sparks fly from the en-gine I did - n't know I loved sparks I did - n't know I loved so

Bar. sparks fly from the en-gine I did - n't know I loved sparks I did - n't know I loved so

B sparks fly from the en-gine I did - n't know I loved sparks I did - n't know I loved so

125 *f*

T 1 man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

T 2 man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

Bar. man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

B man - y things and I had to wait un - til - six - ty to find it out

128 *mf*

T 1 sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

T 2 sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

Bar. sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

B sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

132 *ritard*

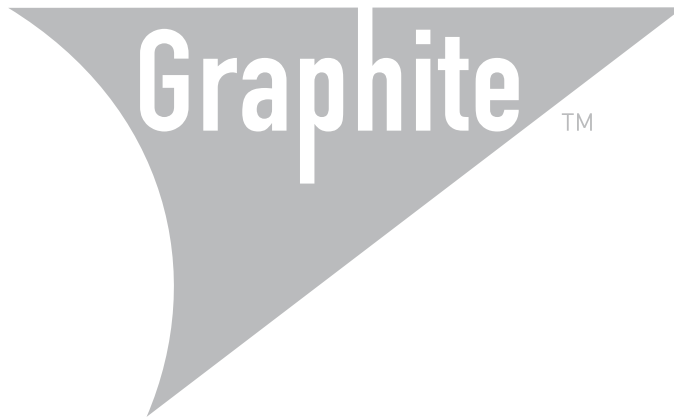
T 1 dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

T 2 dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

Bar. dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

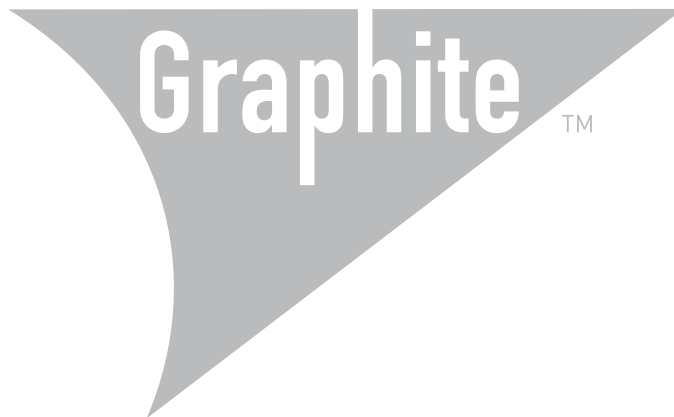
B dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

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# Timothy C. Takach



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making better humans through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach is a mainstay in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, 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, PBS, many 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 has been Composer in Residence for the Texas Boys Choir, The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, and True Concord Voices and Orchestra.

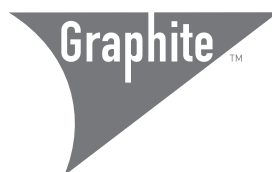
Takach's a cappella choral symphony Helios is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* was premiered in St. Paul, MN by the James Sewell Ballet. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

## Other works for TB voices from Graphite:

Eric William Barnum	GP-B009	I Come Singing	TTBB, shaman drum
Eric William Barnum	GP-B011	The Young Man's Song	TB, piano
B.E. Boykin	GP-B019.1	Stardust	TBB, piano, djembe
Christine Donkin	GP-D019.1	In Flanders Fields	TTBB, a cappella
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H012	Speak the Truth	TB, piano
Hagen & Takach	GP-N001	A Path to Each Other	3-part round for equal voices
Isaac Lovedahl	GP-L001	Behind the Mountain	3-part round for equal voices
Paul John Rudoj	GP-R012	For the Beauty of the Earth	TTBB, a cappella
Paul John Rudoj	GP-R017.2	If I Were a Dog	TBB, piano
Paul John Rudoj	GP-R020.2	Two Old Crows	TBB, piano, violin
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T004	Veni Creator Spiritus	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T006	The Streets of Laredo	unison voices, TTBB, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T009	Things I Didn't Know I Loved	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T011	'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T013	Salve Regina	TTBB double choir, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T025.4	Outshine	TB, piano
Reginal Wright	GP-W005	Forged	TTBB, piano, percussion

## Check out these titles from our friends at Cantus:

Maura Bosch	TCT-CTS-006	The Turning	TTBB, a cappella
Grace Brigham	TCT-CTS-009	Discoveries	TTBB, a cappella, T soli
Catherine Dalton	TCT-CTS-012	Silver Deity of Secret Night	TTBB, a cappella, TB soli
Gibson, Hassilev, Yarbrough	TCT-CTS-001	There's a Meeting Here Tonight	TTBB, a cappella
Joseph Gregorio	TCT-CTS-010	To My Brother	TTBB, a cappella
R.F.M. Mann, arr. Humble	TCT-CTS-011	Jewett	TBB, a cappella
Aaron Humble	TCT-CTS-004	Still, Still Still	TTBB (div), a cappella, T solo
Humble & Rudoj	TCT-CTS-007	Been in the Storm	TTBB, a cappella, T solo
Linda Kachelmeier	TCT-CTS-013	We Toast the Days	TTBB, a cappella
Rosephanye Powell	TCT-CTS-014	When We Sing	TTBB, a cappella
Gary Ruschman	TCT-CTS-002	Nowell! Nowell! This is the Salutacion	TBB, frame drum
Timothy C. Takach	TCT-CTS-008	Luceat Eis	TTBB (div), a cappella



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