

Standing Tall
GP - V003
SA, piano

Ellen Gilson Voth

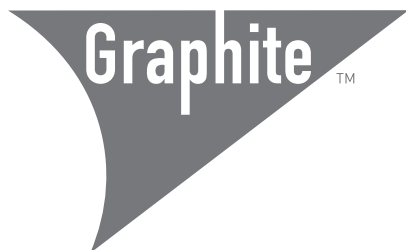
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Ellen Gilson Voth

Standing Tall

for SA choir and piano

Winner of the 2022 ACDA Pearl Prize



notable. elevated.

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Text:

I see your buds in springtime,
The fruit you share in summer,
Standing tall against the sky, making a mark on the world.

I see the snow that graces you in winter,
The golden leaves you wear in fall.
You may feel bare branches weighing toward the ground,
Yet I know your strength within.

Your blossoms may fade,
Your leaves may be swept away,
But your roots are strong and your beauty lives on.

We treasure you in springtime
And in the warmth of summer.

We share the loneliness you feel in winter
And in the fading light of fall.

Seasons come and seasons go,
Yet we will always see you standing tall,
Come summer, winter, spring or fall,
Making your mark,
Your beautiful mark on the world.

*- Ellen Gilson Voth and singers from
Handel and Haydn Society Youth Choruses*

From the Composer:

“Standing Tall” was composed in response to an invitation by Dr. Jennifer Kane, Conductor of the Handel and Haydn Society Youth Chorale (Boston, Massachusetts). When Jennifer asked me to compose a piece following the unexpected passing of a family friend of hers, Alexandra Valoras (2000-2018), I was both honored and humbled by her request. From the start I knew the challenge would lie in crafting a piece to reflect Alexandra’s life and potential, and be an edifying experience for singers who did not know Alexandra, as they would learn and premiere the piece. The music needed to be simple and eloquent welcoming singers coming to understand loss and the ways we can show compassion and confidence in life’s value.

Near the Valoras’ home in Grafton, Massachusetts stands an apple tree; in a family blog post, Alexandra’s father described his memories of the tree with Alexandra in years past. In creating text for this piece, I decided to portray four seasons as seen in the tree; in the second stanza, the tree becomes a metaphor for Alexandra, with the word

There is no one in the world like you.

We are better people with you in the world.

Think of those you cherish
And those that cherish you.
You touch our lives in ways you don’t even know.

Tomorrow is always a new and different day.

“you” in place of her name. Dr. Kane and I invited singers from the Youth Chorale to write affirming statements they might share with someone struggling with their self-worth; several of those statements were layered as descant in the second half of the piece.

Wherever performed, we hope “Standing Tall” prompts vital conversation about the fresh start each day offers; the need for deep roots to withstand seasons of promise and of struggle in our lives, often in the order we least expect; and the beauty and inherent worth of every person.

- Ellen Gilson Voth, 2022

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Ellen Gilson Voth and singers from
Handel and Haydn Youth Choruses--Youth Chorale

Ellen Gilson Voth

Freely

Piano

mp

mf

Ped. ad libitum

Graphite

notable. elevated.

6 ♩ = approx. 78-82

10

S

mp

I see your buds in spring - time, _____ the

A

mp

I see your buds in spring - time, _____ the

Graphite

notable. elevated.

10

mp

Graphite

notable. elevated.

Graphite™

13

S fruit you share in sum - mer, Stand-ing tall a-against the sky,

A fruit you share in sum - mer, Stand-ing tall a-against the sky,

13



16

S mak-ing a mark on the world. I see the snow —

A mak-ing a mark on the world. I see the snow —

16

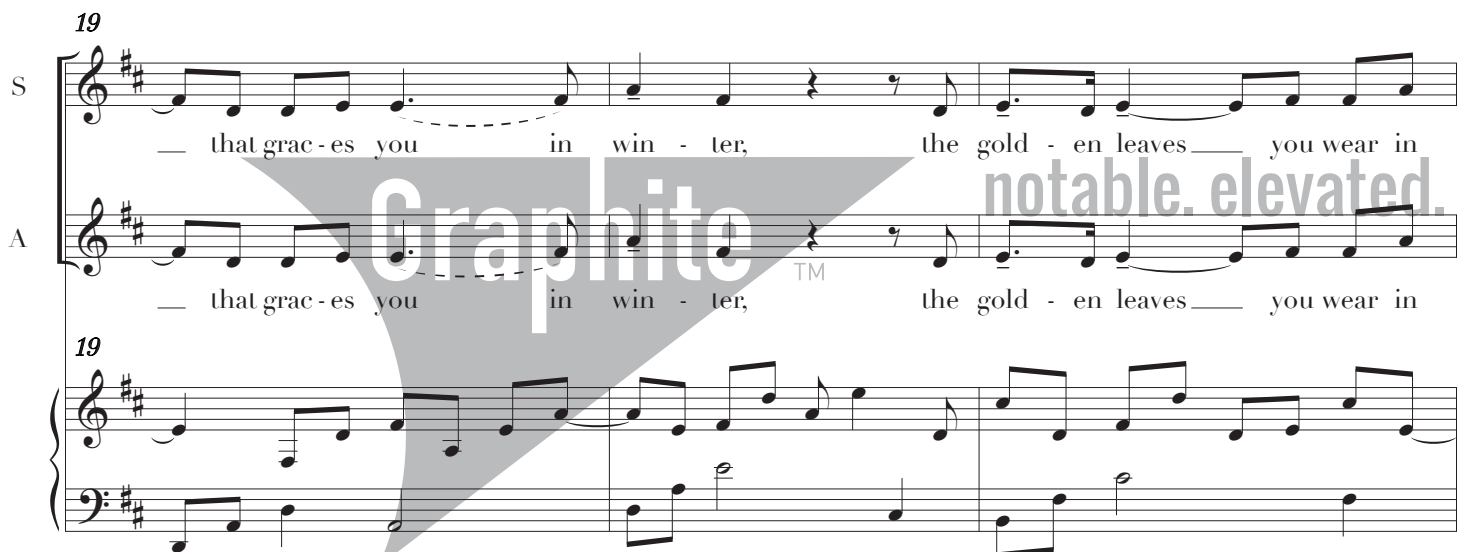


19

S — that grac - es you in win - ter, the gold - en leaves you wear in

A — that grac - es you in win - ter, the gold - en leaves you wear in

19



22

S fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, _____

A fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, _____

22

Graphite notable. elevated.

25

S _____ yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may

A _____ yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may

25

poco accel. ♩ = approx. 88

Graphite notable. elevated.

29

S fade, your leaves may be swept a - way, but your

A fade, your leaves may be swept a - way,

29

Graphite notable. elevated.

32

S roots are strong _____ your beau - ty lives

A _____ and your beau - ty lives on, and on, lives

32

notable. elevated.

35

S on and on. _____

A on, and on, and on and on. _____

notable. elevated.

35

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notable. elevated.

39

gradual return to tempo primo

mf

notable. elevated.

44 $\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 82$ *mf*

S There is no one in the world

A *mf* We trea - sure you in spring - time, and

44 $\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 82$ *notable. elevated.*

47

S like you. We are bet - ter peo - ple with

A in the warmth of sum - mer. We are bet - ter peo - ple with

47

notable. elevated.

50

S you in the world.

A you, with you in the world. We share the lone - liness

50

53

S Think of those you cher - ish,

A you feel in win - ter, — and in the fad - ing light —

53

Graphite notable, elevated. *Freely.*

56

S and those that cher - ish you. You touch our lives in

A — of fall. You touch our lives in

56

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

59

S ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

A ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

59

mp

mp

Graphite notable, elevated.

TM

♩ = approx. 70-72

♩ = approx. 70-72

63

S new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come

A new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come

63

Graphite TM

notable. elevated.

67

S — and sea - sons go,

A — and sea - sons go, yet we will al - ways

67

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

70 *suggesting a return to tempo primo*

S *mf* come sum - mer, win - ter, spring or fall,

A see you stand - ing tall,

70 *suggesting a return to tempo primo*

Graphite TM

notable. elevated.

$\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 70-72$

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

73

S mak - ing your mark, your beau - ti - ful mark

A mak - ing your mark, your beau - ti - ful mark

73

$\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 70-72$

77

S on the world.

A on the world.

77

mp

mp

mf

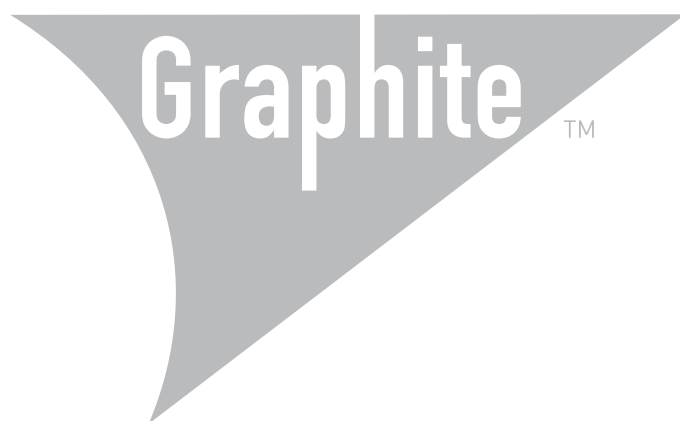
82

mp

rit.

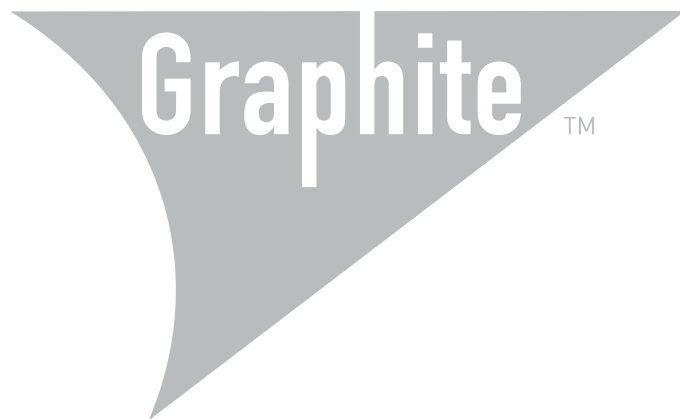
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notable. elevated.

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notable. elevated.

Ellen Gilson Voth



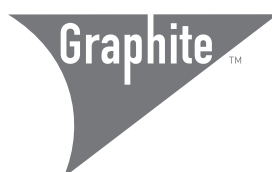
Active as a conductor and composer, Ellen Gilson Voth composes works that reflect her passion for and commitment to high standards of artistry in writing for the human voice. Praised for music that is “superbly crafted for singer and accompanist,” Voth’s works have been commissioned and premiered by a wide range of professional, semi-professional and amateur choirs across the US, and featured at regional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and College Music Society. Her art song and short opera works have garnered national attention as well. An experienced educator and clinician, she regularly presents workshops and coaches emerging composers on the art and craft of composition. Voth received her DMA degree from The Hartt School, University of Hartford, and currently lives with her husband and daughter in West Hartford, CT. To learn more about her work, visit www.ellengilsonvoth.net.

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