

M . E . V a l v e r d e

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**W i n t e r R i d e**  
*for SATB chorus a cappella*

## About the Poet

A native of Brookline, Massachusetts, poet, critic, editor, and educator Amy Lowell was born in 1874 the youngest of five children to an affluent Episcopalian family. After years of homeschooling, she attended private school and had the opportunity to travel to Europe multiple times. By 17, she began writing poetry; by 36, her poems were individually published in various journals; and by 39, her first collection of poems *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* was published by Houghton Mifflin. In 1926, the year following her death, her collection *What's O'Clock* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Considered controversial for her time, Lowell was influenced by the Imagist movement, writing with the intention to create literature that was aggressively precise rather than, to quote her, "blurred" or "indefinite." Developing through the movement, she practiced polyphonic prose, a style that blended formal verse with free forms. Her other influences include Chinese poetry, Japanese poetry, and John Keats, who she regarded as the forefather of Imagism and about whom she authored a biography.

Notably, in the last few years of her life, she was happily involved in a relationship with Ada Dwyer Russell, who worked as her secretary and who would become a muse for erotic and romantic poems. Weight gain and hernias, precipitated from a glandular condition, caused a decline in her health, and she died by stroke at Sevenels, the Lowell family seat.

Who shall declare the joy of the running!  
Who shall tell of the pleasures of flight!  
Springing and spurning the tufts of wild heather,  
Sweeping, wide-winged, through the blue dome of light.  
Everything mortal has moments immortal,  
Swift and God-gifted, immeasurably bright.

So with the stretch of the white road before me,  
Shining snowcrystals rainbowed by the sun,  
Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shadows,  
Strong with the strength of my horse as we run.  
Joy in the touch of the wind and the sunlight!  
Joy! With the vigorous earth I am one.

"A Winter Ride" (1912) by Amy Lowell

## Composer's Notes

In "Winter Ride," winter is bold, ephemeral, colorful, mysterious, and nourishing. This briskly paced work bursts open with melodies striving to express the pleasure of running through white snow. Save a moment to revel in the brightness of the light, it sweeps listeners off their feet, dances through various tonal areas, and carries them away with a joyful message of thankfulness for life and living. Composed in the style of an Advent carol, it is sung in four parts a cappella with optional divisi and comfortably rides the fence between secular and sacred.

This work was commissioned by the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco under the direction of Zane Fiala as part of the responsibilities for their 2018 Composer-in-Residence, and it is featured on multiple albums including SACRA/PROFANA's *A Longing for Christmas* and Seattle Pro Musica's *Solstice: Music of Light for the Holidays*.

dur. = ca. 2'-2'30"

Written for the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco (IOCSF.org)

# Winter Ride

for SATB chorus a cappella

**Amy Lowell**

1874-1925

**Mari Esabel Valverde**

b. 1987

**Allegretto, with wonder** ♩ = ca. 120-132

*mf* *cresc.*

Soprano

Who shall de - clare the joy of the run - ning!

*mf* *cresc.*

Alto

Who shall de - clare the joy of the run - ning!

*mf* *cresc.*

Tenor

Who shall de - clare the joy of the run - ning!

*mf* *cresc.*

Bass

Who shall de - clare the joy of the run - ning!

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

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7 *mf* *opt. div. fp poco a poco cresc.*

S Who shall tell \_\_\_\_\_ of the pleas-ures of flight! \_\_\_\_\_

A *mf* *fp poco a poco cresc.*

Who \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ tell of the pleas-ures of flight! \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf* *fp poco a poco cresc.*

Who shall \_\_\_\_\_ tell of the pleas-ures of flight! \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf*

Who shall \_\_\_\_\_ tell \_\_\_\_\_ of the pleas-ures of flight! \_\_\_\_\_

13 *rit.* *cresc.* *A tempo* *f*

S [Fly!] \_\_\_\_\_ Spring-ing and spurn-ing the tufts of wild heath-er,

A *cresc.* *f*

[Fly!] \_\_\_\_\_ Spring-ing and spurn-ing the tufts of wild heath-er,

T *cresc.* *f*

[Fly!] \_\_\_\_\_ Spring-ing and spurn-ing the tufts of wild heath-er,

B *cresc.* *f*

[Fly!] \_\_\_\_\_ Spring-ing and spurn-ing the tufts of wild heath-er,

19 *mf*

S Sweep - ing, wide - wing - ed, through the blue dome

A *mp* *mf*

A Sweep - ing, wide - wing - ed, through the blue dome

T *mp* *mf*

T Sweep - ing, wide - wing - ed, through the blue dome

B *mp* *mf*

B Sweep - ing, wide wing - ed, through the

23 *molto rit.* *dim.* **A tempo** *mp*

S of light. Eve - ry - thing

A *dim.* *mp*

A of light. Eve - ry - thing mor tal has mo - ments im -

T *dim.* *mp*

T of light. Eve - ry - thing mor - tal has

B *dim.* *mp*

B dome of light. Eve - ry - thing mor -

**poco rit.****A tempo**

31

S mor - tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal. Swift

A mor - tal, im - mor - tal. Swift

T 8 mo - ments im - mor - tal. Swift and God -

B tal has mo - ments im - mor - tal. Swift

36

S Swift and God - gift ed, im -

A Swift and God - gift - ed, im - meas - ura - bly bright, im -

T 8 gift ed, im - meas - ura bly bright, im -

B Swift and God - gift - ed, im - meas - ura - bly



41

S meas - ura - bly bright! [Bright!]

A meas - ura - bly bright! [Bright!]

T meas - ura - bly bright! [Bright!]

B bright, im meas - ura - bly bright!

41

47

S *mf* So with the stretch of the white road be fore me,

A *mf* So with the stretch of the white road be - fore me,

T *mf* So with the stretch of the white road be - fore me,

B *mf* So with the stretch of the white road be - fore me,

opt. div.  
**fp** poco a poco cresc.

53

S Shin-ing snow - crys - tals rain-bowed by the sun,

A Shin - ing snow-crys - tals rain-bowed by the sun,

T Shin - ing snow-crys - tals rain-bowed by the sun,

B Shin-ing snow crys - tals rain-bowed by the sun,

**fp** poco a poco cresc.

**fp** poco a poco cresc.

59

S [Shine!] Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shad-ows,

A [Shine!] Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shad-ows,

T [Shine!] Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shad-ows,

B [Shine!] Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shad-ows,

**rit.** **cresc.** **f** **A tempo**



63 *mf*  
S Strong with the strength of my horse as we run,  
*mp*  
A Strong with the strength of my horse as we  
*mp*  
T Strong with the strength of my horse as we  
*mp*  
B Strong with the strength of my  
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71

S we run. Joy in the touch of the

A run, we run, we run. Joy in the touch of the

T run, we run, we run. Joy in the touch of the

B horse as we run, we run. Joy in the touch of the

A musical score for a choral and piano piece. The score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (P). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a single system. The vocal parts have lyrics in English. The piano part consists of a right and left hand. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). There are also slurs and phrasing marks. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Not authorized for perusal only" is overlaid on the entire page.

77

S wind and the sun - light! Joy! Joy! Joy!

A wind and the sun - light! Joy! Joy! Joy!

T wind and the sun - light! Joy! Joy! Joy!

B wind and the sun - light! Joy! Joy! Joy!

*mf* *cresc.*

83

S with the vi - gor - ous earth I am one.

A with the vi - gor - ous earth I am one.

T with the vi - gor - ous earth I am one.

B with the vi - gor - ous earth I am one.

*sub. p e molto cresc. al fine* *molto rall.* *opt. div.*

\* Close immediately to the [n] as if two eighth notes.