

Holding the Light
GP-B022
SATB, piano

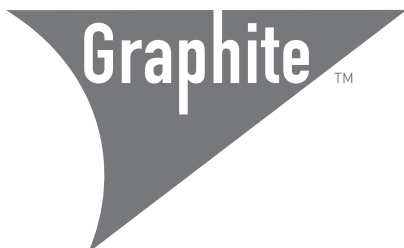
B.E. Boykin

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B.E. Boykin

Holding the Light

for SATB choir and piano



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Text:

Gather up whatever is
glittering in the gutter,
whatever has tumbled
in the waves or fallen
in flames out of the sky,

for it's not only our
hearts that are broken,
but the heart
of the world as well.
Stitch it back together.

Make a place where
the day speaks to the night
and the earth speaks to the sky.
Whether we created God
or God created us

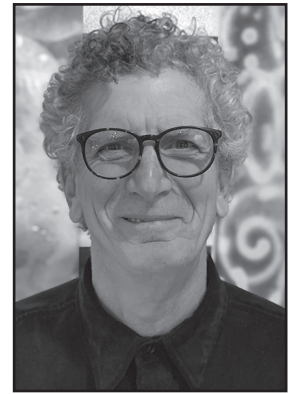
it all comes down to this:
In our imperfect world
we are meant to repair
and stitch together
what beauty there is, stitch it

with compassion and wire.
See how everything
we have made gathers
the light inside itself
and overflows? A blessing.

- Stuart Kestenbaum, from Only Now (Deerbrook Editions, 2013). Copyright © 2013 by Stuart Kestenbaum. Used with permission of the author.

The Poet:

Stuart Kestenbaum is the author of six collections of poems and a book of brief essays on craft and community. He has written and spoken widely on craft making and creativity, and his poems and writing have appeared in small press publications and magazines. He is currently serving as Maine's poet laureate and hosts Poems from Here on Maine Public Radio/Maine Public Classical. He was the director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine for over twenty-five years, and was elected an honorary fellow of the American Craft Council in 2006. Former US poet laureate Ted Kooser has written "Stuart Kestenbaum writes the kind of poems I love to read, heartfelt responses to the privilege of having been given a life. No hidden agendas here, no theories to espouse, nothing but life, pure life, set down with craft and love."



Commissioned by the Albright College (PA) Choral Ensembles, Jordan M. Shomper, director

Holding the Light

for SATB choir and piano

Stuart Kestenbaum

B.E. Boykin

Moving with ethereal love (♩ = 56-60)

notable. elevated.

Piano

mf

pedal harmonically

3

S *mf* Ga - ther

A *mf* Ga - ther

T *mf* Ga - ther

B *mf* Ga - ther

5

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S up what - ev - er is _____ glit - ter - ing in the gut - ter _____ what -

A up what - ev - er is _____ glit - ter - ing in the gut - ter _____ what -

T up what - ev - er is _____ glit - ter - ing in the gut - ter _____ what -

B up what - ev - er is _____ glit - ter - ing in the gut - ter _____ what -

7

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S ev - er has tum - bled _____ in the waves or fall - en in

A ev - er has tum - bled _____ in the waves or fall - en in

T ev - er has tum - bled _____ in the waves or fall - en in

B ev - er has tum - bled _____ in the waves or fall - en in

9

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S
flames out of the sky hold - ing the light

A
flames out of the sky hold - ing the light

T
flames out of the sky hold - ing the light

B
flames out of the sky hold - ing the light

12

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S
light

A
light

T
light for it's

B
light for it's

14 *mf*

S *mf* *mf*

A *mf*

T not on - ly our hearts that are bro - ken

B not on - ly our hearts that are bro - ken

14

16

S *mf* *mf*

A *mf*

T but the heart of the world as well Stich

B but the heart of the world as well Stich

16

18

S it back to - ge - ther

A it back to - ge - ther

T it back to - ge - ther

B it back to - ge - ther

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21

S light

A light

T light

B light

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**While music is constructed with notes and rests, these moments are unique in giving the appearance that there's still forward motion through the silence*

23 *mf*

S *mf*
 Make a place_ where the day_ speaks to_ the night

A *mf*
 Make a place_ where the day_ speaks to_ the night

T *mf*
 and the earth_ speaks to_ the

B *mf*
 and the earth_ speaks to_ the

23
 Piano accompaniment for measures 23-25.

26

S
 Whe - ther we cre - a - ted God_ or

A
 Whe - ther we cre - a - ted God_ or

T
 sky_ Whe - ther we cre - a - ted God_ or

B
 sky_ Whe - ther we cre - a - ted God_ or

26
 Piano accompaniment for measures 26-28.

29

S
God cre - a - ted us *f* Hold - ing the

A
God cre - a - ted us *f* Hold - ing the

T
God cre - a - ted us *f* Hold - ing the

B
God cre - a - ted us *f* Hold - ing the

32

S
light Hold - ing the

A
light Hold - ing the

T
light Hold - ing the

B
light Hold - ing the

35

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.
 light hold - ing the light

A light hold - ing the light

T light hold - ing the light

B light hold - ing the light

35

Piano accompaniment for measures 35-37, featuring a right-hand melody with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand accompaniment with chords and bass notes.

38

S Hold ing the light Hold ing the

A Hold ing the light Hold ing the

T Hold ing the light Hold ing the

B Hold ing the light Hold ing the

38

Piano accompaniment for measures 38-40, continuing the musical texture with eighth-note patterns in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

41 *slower* *mp*

S light _____ it all comes down to this _____ In our im-per-fect world _____

A light _____ it all comes down to this _____ In our im-per-fect world _____

T light _____

B light _____

41 *mp* *slower*

44 *mf*

S _____ to - ge - ther what _____

A _____ to - ge - ther what _____

T *mp* we are meant to re - pair _____ and _____ stitch to - ge - ther what _____

B *mp* we are meant to re - pair _____ and _____ stitch to - ge - ther what _____

44 *mf*

46

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S beau - ty there is _____ stitch it with com - pas - sion and wire _____ See

A beau - ty there is _____ stitch it with com - pas - sion and wire _____ See

T beau - ty there is _____ stitch it with com - pas - sion and wire _____ See

B beau - ty there is _____ stitch it with com - pas - sion and wire _____ See

48

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S how eve - ry-thing we have made _____ gath - ers the _____ light in - side it - self and

A how eve - ry-thing we have made _____ gath - ers the _____ light in - side it - self and

T how eve - ry-thing we have made _____ gath - ers the _____ light in - side it - self and

B how eve - ry-thing we have made _____ gath - ers the _____ light in - side it - self and

mp *mf* *poco a poco dim. & rit.*

51

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S
o - ver - flows the light in - side it - self and o - ver - flows

A
o - ver - flows the light in - side it - self and o - ver - flows

T
o - ver - flows the light in - side it - self and o - ver - flows

B
o - ver - flows the light in - side it - self and o - ver - flows

51

54

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S
o - ver - flows? A bless - ing

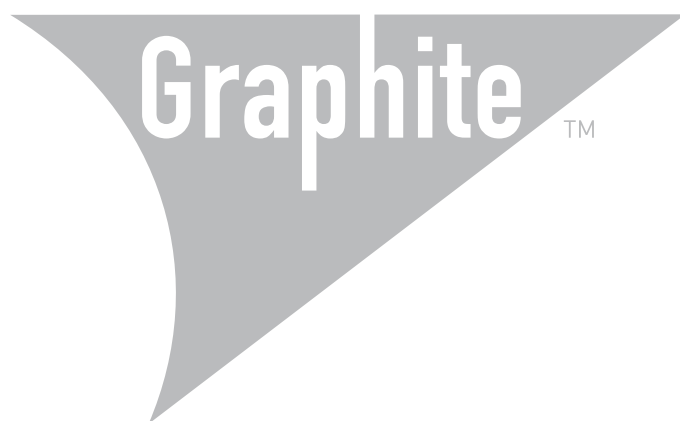
A
o - ver - flows? A bless - ing

T
o - ver - flows? A bless - ing

B
o - ver - flows? A bless - ing

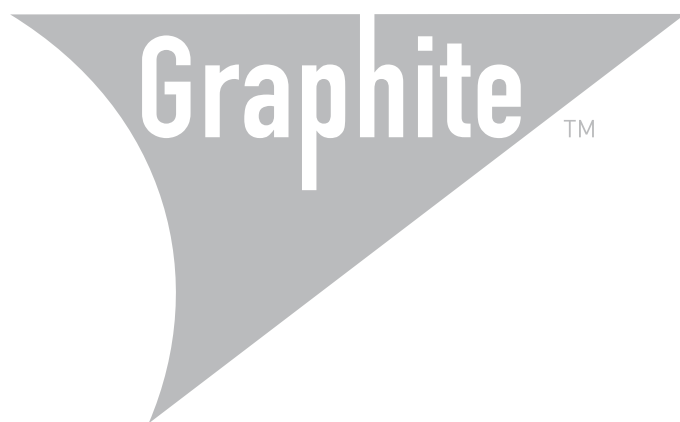
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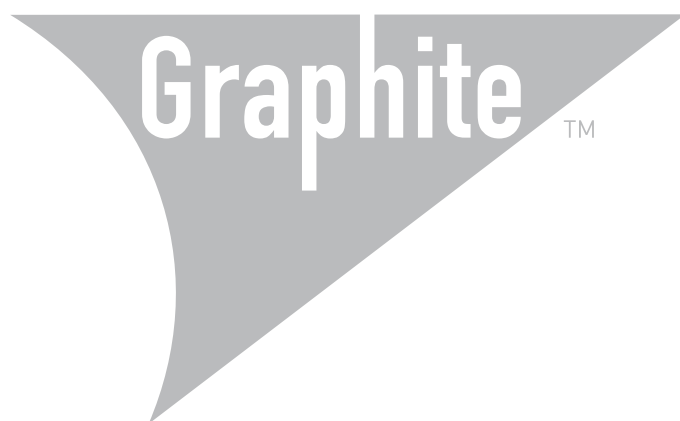
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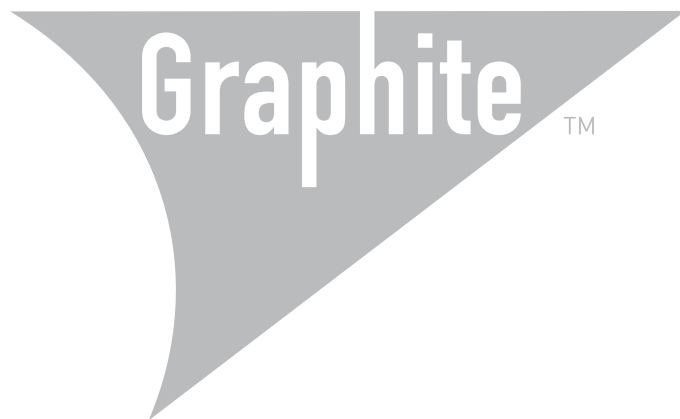
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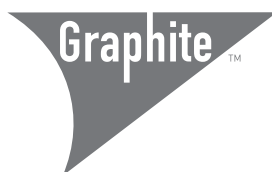
B.E. Boykin



Brittney Boykin (B. E. Boykin) first pursued her interest in music during her time at Spelman College, attending classes that inspired and challenged her musical imagination and peaked her interest in composition. After graduating with a B.A. in Music, Boykin continued her studies while attending Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey, graduating with a M.M. in Sacred Music and receiving the R & R Young Composition Prize. Boykin has been commissioned and collaborated with several organizations, including a number of ACDA divisions, the Minnesota Opera and the Kennedy Center. She obtained her PhD from Georgia State University with an emphasis in Music Education and is currently an Assistant Professor of Music at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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