

JS 043
2 minutes, 20 seconds

*A child
suggested on
a Tuesday*

SATB, a cappella

Music by
Joshua Shank

Text by
Robert W. Ressler

Note from the composer

When Dr. Kevin Coker approached me about collaborating on a choral song cycle, we talked through many different themes that we felt might tie a set of pieces together. In a previous work, *Color Madrigals*, I had used the color wheel and texts by John Keats as a jumping-off point so, for this new cycle, we entertained various ways to do the same. The idea we hit upon that we thought might yield something interesting was a song cycle based around something entirely quotidian (literally): the days of the week. We sometimes see the week as a thing to make it through, but momentous events like the first atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima and man's first steps on the surface of the moon happened, boringly enough, on a Monday. But more personal stories—falling in love, having a child, losing a parent—can also happen to us no matter what day of the week it is. Thus, *Songs for Seven Days* was born.

To that end, I searched for texts that mentioned each day of the week and came up with some beautifully diverse offerings. For the third movement, American poet Robert W. Ressler offered a sweet, little poem he based on an observation made on a Tuesday by a kindergartener he knew.

Songs for Seven Days was commissioned by the Blue Valley Northwest High School Chamber Singers (Dr. Kevin Coker, conductor) for their performance at the 2014 Kansas Music Educators Convention.

The Text

A Child Suggested on a Tuesday

by Robert W. Ressler (b. 1988)

A child suggested
on a Tuesday
that we help old ladies
by singing to them
that we help orphans
by giving them food
that we help our friends
by picking them up
when they fall down.

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

Text used by permission.

A bit faster

15

(♩ = 66)

10

mf *rit.*

by sing-ing, sing-ing

mp *mf* *rit.*

we help by sing-ing, sing-ing

mp *rit.*

sing-ing to them, sing-ing that we

mf *rit.*

sing-ing, sing-ing

20

Tempo 1

16

mp *mf* warmly

by giv-ing them food that we

mp *mf* warmly

by giv-ing them food that we

mp *mf* warmly

help the or-phans by giv-ing them food that we

mp *mf* warmly

help the or-phans by giv-ing them food and that we

help our friends _____ when they fall down

help our friends _____ when they _____ fall down

help our friends _____ when they _____ fall down

help our friends _____ when they fall down

help our friends _____ when they fall down

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

25 Slower, a reflection (♩ = 56)

29 As the beginning

ooh _____ ooh _____ A _____ *chi - ld

ooh _____ ooh _____ A _____ *chi - ld

ooh _____ ooh _____ A _____ *chi - ld

ooh _____ ooh _____ A _____ *chi - ld sug -

mp *rit.* *lunga* *mp* warmly

mp *rit.* *lunga* *mp* warmly

mp *rit.* *lunga* *mp* warmly

mp *rit.* *lunga* *mp* warmly

* Same as in the beginning.

31

poco, *mp*

on a Tues - day that we help,

poco, *mp*

sug - gest - ed on a Tues - day that we help,

poco, *mp*

sug - gest - ed on a Tues - day that we help,

poco, *mp*

gest - - - ed on a Tues - day that we help,

37

mp *rit.* *lunga*

that we help.

mp *rit.* *lunga*

that we help.

mp *rit.* *lunga*

that we help.

mp *rit.* *lunga*

that we help.

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

Austin, August 2013