

JS 046
2 minutes, 15 seconds

*a fly and
a mirror:
this is Friday*

SATB, a cappella

Music by
Joshua Shank

Text by
E.E. Cummings

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 penultimate movement, I chose a text by E.E. Cummings which serves as a meditation of sorts about a fly walking across the glass that separates it from the reflective surface of a mirror.

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

XXVI

by E. E. Cummings (1894-1962)

ohld song	her his lts image
you Know	strutting(very
a fly and	jerkily)not touch-
his reflection walking upon	ing because separated by an impregnable
a mirror this is	Because(amount of inter
friday 1	-vening)anyway You
what	know Separated what
3 a fly	i Mean
&	(oweld song by
	neither you nor i and
	by the way)
	,which is not fly

Text used by permission.

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

a fly and a mirror: this is Friday

Text by
E.E. Cummings

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

Music by
Joshua Shank

Gliding ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mf lightly

strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting, —

strut - ting, — strut - ting,

mf lightly

strut - ting, — strut - ting, —

mf lightly

strut - ting,

strut -

ting,

strut

“ohld song” Copyright 1931, © 1959, 1991
by the Trustees for the E. E. Cummings Trust.
Copyright © 1979 by George James Firmage, from COMPLETE POEMS: 1904-1962
by E. E. Cummings, edited by George J. Firmage.
Used by permission of Liveright Publishing Corporation.
Copyright © 2018 B&F Music

3 *mp* strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

— strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

mp strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

mp ting, strut - ting, strut -

mf foreground you know a fly and his re -

mf foreground you know a fly and his re -

5...4...3..."

6 strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

— strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

ting, strut - ting, strut -

sfz flec - tion

sfz flec - tion

5...4...3..."

9

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

ting, strut ting, strut

mf walk - ing — u - pon a mir - ror

mf walk - ing — u - pon a mir - ror

12

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

ting, strut ting, strut

f this is fri - day

this is fri - day

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

ting, *p* *sub. mf* (pattern change) strut - ting, strut

what a *p* *sub. mf* ”

what a

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

strut - ting, — strut - ting, — strut - ting,

strut - ting, strut - ting, strut - ting,

ting, *p* *sub. mf* ” strut - ting, strut

fly and her his its i - mage

fly and her his its i - mage

close slowly to "ng"

poco rit.

ven - ing - - - (ng)

ble a - mount of in - ter ven - ing - (ng)

touch-ing, not touch-ing, not touch-ing, not touch - ing, (ng)

not touch-ing, not touch-ing, not touch - ing, not touch - ing, (ng)

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

32 Tempo 1

mf a - ny, a - ny, a - ny, a - ny, a - ny, a - ny,

mf a - ny, a - ny, a - ny,

mf way, way, way,

mf a - ny way,

mf foreground a - ny way

mf foreground a - ny way

a - ny way

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, —

a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, —

way, — way, — way, — way, —

a - ny — way, — a - ny —

f you know what i mean

f you know what i mean

a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — a - ny, — se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

— a - ny, — a - ny, — se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

way, — way, — se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

way, — se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

mf se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

mf se - pa - rat - ed — *f* G. P.

44 Chorale (♩ = 58)

mp warmly "old" song by nei - ther you nor i

mp warmly "old" song by nei - ther you nor i

mp warmly "old" song by nei - ther you nor i

mp warmly "old" song by nei - ther you nor i

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

47 *a tempo* and by the way which is not fly G. P.

a tempo and by the way which is not fly G. P.

a tempo and by the way which is not fly G. P.

a tempo and by the way which is not fly G. P.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

51 Tempo 1

senza rit.

mf *pp*

(m)

mf *pp*

(m) (m) (m) (m) (m)

mf *pp*

(m) (m) (m) (m)

mf *pp*

(m)

Austin, December 2013

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

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