

A Red, Red (Noun)
TB choir, piano

Timothy C. Takach

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for TB choir and piano

Commissioned in 2016 by the North Central Division of ACDA Commissioning Consortium for Young TB Choirs.

Boeckman Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Guys Choirs, Farmington, MN, Sarah O'Banion, conductor
Cincinnati Boychoir, Cincinnati, OH, Christopher Eanes, conductor
Craig Concert Boys Choir, Abilene, TX, Wendy Weeks, conductor
Flower Mound High School, Flower Mound, TX, Mark Rohwer, conductor
Hampton-Dumont Choir, Hampton, IA, Jesse Bunge, Savannah Veenstra, conductor
Light of Christ Academy Boy Choir, Bismarck, ND, Vicky Boechler, conductor
MFL MarMac 7th & 8th Grade Men's Chorus, Jaydeane Berns, conductor
North Fayette Valley 7-8 Boys Chorus, West Union, IA, Douglas Poppen, conductor
Pine Island Panther Boys Choir, Pine Island, MN, Michael Jeffrey, conductor
Pleasant Valley Junior High Tenor & Bass Choir, LeClaire, IA, Peter Grau, conductor
Prairie Point Men's Choirs, Cedar Rapids, IA, Kelly Truax, conductor
Wayzata Central Middle School Boys Select Choir, Wayzata, MN, Chris Larson, conductor
Young Junior High Young Men, Arlington, TX, Christine Jones, conductor
Young People's Chorus of Erie, Erie, PA, Gabrielle Dietrich, conductor



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Text (the real version):

O my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melody
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I:
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt with the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands of life shall run.

And fare thee well, my only Luve
And fare thee well, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

- Robert Burns

Or...

(noun) _____

(adverb) _____

(adverb) _____

(noun) _____

(adjective) _____

(verb) _____

(plural noun) _____

(verb) _____

(previous plural noun) _____

(previous verb) _____

(term of endearment) _____

(verb) _____

(baked good) _____

(plural noun) _____

(noun) _____

(previous verb) _____

(same verb) _____

(same baked good) _____

(plural noun) _____

Notes from the composer:

So this is obviously not a normal choral piece. The funny thing is, I'm usually really picky about the texts I choose to set to music, and with this piece, I'm giving that responsibility to you.

You could sing this with the real poem by Robert Burns, and it will sound lovely. But this piece is a word game, a chance for you to make the piece your own. So go wild. Make a funny version. Make a sci-fi version, have a high-ranking city official make one.

Here are some thoughts and ideas:

1. It doesn't matter how many syllables are in your version. But you'll have to figure out how to squeeze them into the spots in the piece. There are some places where it would be easy to add a pick-up syllable (m. 9, 14, etc.) on "4 and." Depending on your new word in m. 20-21 you might use the last eighth as part of the new word, or you could slur it to the previous eighth on "my." In m. 42 there are three notes you could use (or not), and there are places like m. 33 where time is short and you've just got to make the best of it.

2. I'm usually really specific about where I want you to breathe, but I'm going to leave that up to you. If it makes sense to cut a half note down to a quarter so you can breathe, do it.

3. From where I sit, I think you should sing this straight - that is, don't give away the fact that it's funny, or unexpected. Let the audience figure that out. But again, you might have a totally different way of going about it. In that case, go ahead.

4. You could write in your score in pencil, but even after a few versions that score is going to look a mess. Another idea is to get those little Post-It flags and use those above the music where the new word goes.

5. In your printed program, leave the title as is. Don't insert a new word for (Noun).

6. Let's see how many of these we can all make. Video your performance and post it on YouTube. Title it "(Your Choir Name) sings 'A Red, Red (Noun)' by Timothy C. Takach." Then tag it with "Timothy C. Takach," "Choral Mad Lib" and "Red, Red (Noun)." I want to hear what you do!

- Timothy C. Takach (2016)

A Red, Red (Noun)

for TB and piano

Robert Burns (mostly)

Timothy C. Takach (2016)

(Adverb) ♩ = 88

T/B

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5

mf

O my Luv'e's like a

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9

red, red (noun) That's (adverb) sprung in June;

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12 *mf* *f* *mp*

O my Luv'e's like the mel-o-die That's play'd in

(adverb)

16 *f*

(noun) As

Sva

20

fair art thou, my lass, So deep in luv'e am I.

(adjective)

24

mp

And I will _____ thee still, my dear, Till a' the _____

(verb) (plural noun) (verb)

f *p*

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28

f

dry: Till a' the _____ dry, my _____ And the _____

(previous plural noun) (previous verb) (term of endearment)

mf

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31

p

f

rocks melt with the sun: I will _____ thee still, my _____ While the _____

(verb) (baked good)

p *mf* *f*

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35

mf *f*

(plural noun) of (noun) shall run. I will (previous verb) thee still,

mp *f*

38

p

I will (same verb) thee still, my (baked good)

p *p*

42

f *p* *f*

8va

46

mp

And fare thee well, my — on - ly Luvè And fare thee well, a

(*sva*) -----

p

50

mf

while! And I will come a -

sva -----

mf

ritard -----

(Adjective) ♩ = 76

53

mp

p

gain, my Luvè, Tho' it were ten thou - sand

(plural noun)

p



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, numerous All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach is a co-creator of the theatrical production of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach's a cappella choral symphony Helios is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* was premiered in St. Paul, MN by the James Sewell Ballet. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
Crossroads		SATB, piano
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Even in My Time		3-part treble, piano
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
Joseph		SATB a cappella
Mantra	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change		SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: Insidious		SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo		SATB, piano
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
How to Triumph	(Graphite Publishing)	SSA, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Together, Unafraid		SSA, piano
She Tore a Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano

TB Voices

Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Every Fire		TTBB, piano
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Kin		TB, piano
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast		TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella

Large Works

At Home (ca. 15')		SATB, flute, clarinet
Born For This (ca. 16')		SATB and piano, chamber ensemble, or concert band
Changed by Beauty (ca. 18')		SATB, cello
Helios (ca. 65')		SATB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
This is How You Love (ca. 35') composed with Jocelyn Hagen		SATB div. a cappella
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
Unfashioned Creature (ca. 41'), a ballet		SATB, cello, percussion, dancers
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra