

Stardust  
GP-B019.2  
SATB, piano, djembe

B.E. Boykin

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# B.E. Boykin

## Stardust

for SATB choir, piano and djembe



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## Text:

If we are only stardust  
Let your names reach to the sky above us

Like petals wafting on a breeze  
We lift you up beyond our reach

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”  
Amen, Amen  
”Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”  
We say your names

If we are only stardust  
May your blood never be in vain

Like petals wafting on a breeze  
We lift you up beyond our reach

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”  
Amen, Amen  
“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”  
We say your names

Each day we grieve another face  
Maybe all this stardust  
Will carry us home one day  
To a home where we can run  
A home where we can pray  
A home where we can breathe,  
To sleep and dream without fear  
Is justice this far away?

We cry your names  
For the strength to keep on fighting  
With the hope that you are flying

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”  
Stardust

- *Brittney Ray Crowell*

## Notes:

In “Stardust,” the singers call for “a home where we can run” in memory of Ahmaud Arbery, “a home where we can pray” in memory of the victims of the Mother Emanuel shooting, “a home where we can breathe” in memory of George Floyd, and a home “to sleep and dream without fear” in memory of Breonna Taylor. When we sing, we pray twice, and it is my prayer that this piece stirs all who hear it to call for justice for the people of color taken from this world before their time and without concern for their humanity.

- *Marcus J. Jauregui*

## From the Poet:

### “Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”

“These are the ‘magic words’ from Virginia Hamilton’s ‘The People Could Fly.’ There’s no actual translation for it, although it has some similarities to some African languages/dialects. The lack of translation may have been Hamilton’s way of showing how most of the Africans lost access to their ability to fly due to being enslaved and removed from their culture.”

**Brittney Ray Crowell** is a native of Texarkana, TX. She is the recipient of a Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry and the Lucy Terry Prince Prize, judged by Major Jackson. Her poems have been published or are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *Frontier*, *The Common*, *The West Review*, *Mount Island*, *Aunt Chloe*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Journal*, and the anthology *Black Lives Have*



*Always Mattered*. She recently participated as one of the librettists for the Kennedy Center’s Cartography Project. She is a teaching assistant and PhD candidate in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Houston and a poetry editor for Gulf Coast.

Commissioned by the Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale Houston ISD, Marcus J. Jauregui, conductor  
SATB version commissioned by the MLK Chorale, Cincinnati, OH, Jason Holmes and Reina Dickey, directors

# Stardust

for SATB choir, piano, & djembe

Brittney Ray Crowell

B.E. Boykin

$\text{♩} = 85$

Djembe

Piano

*f* *p* *mf*

with light pedal

S

A

T

B

*mf*

If we are on - ly star - dust

*mf*

If we are on - ly star - dust

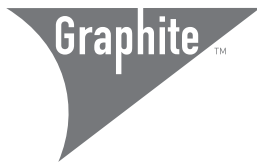
*mf*

If we are on - ly star - dust

*mf*

If we are on - ly star - dust

Piano



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10

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Let your names reach to the sky a -

A Let your names reach to the sky a -

T Let your names reach to the sky a -

B Let your names reach to the sky a -

Graphite<sup>TM</sup> notable.elevated.

10

13

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S bove us Like pet - als waft - ing on a

A bove us Like pet - als waft - ing on a

T bove us Like pet - als waft - ing on a

B bove us Like pet - als waft - ing on a

Graphite<sup>TM</sup> notable.elevated.

13

16

S  
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

A  
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

T  
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

B  
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

16

19

S  
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

A  
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

T  
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

B  
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

19

23

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S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

B Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

26

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S be A-men! we say your names

A be A-men! we say your names

T be A-men! we say your names

B be A - men! we say your names

30

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. If we are on - ly star - dust

A If we are on - ly star - dust

T If we are on - ly star - dust

B If we are on - ly star - dust

30

34

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. May your blood ne-ver be in

A May your blood ne-ver be in

T May your blood ne-ver be in

B May your blood ne-ver be in

34

37

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S vain \_\_\_\_\_ Like pet - als waft - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ a

A vain \_\_\_\_\_ Like pet - als waft - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ a

T vain \_\_\_\_\_ Like pet - als waft - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ a

B vain \_\_\_\_\_ Like pet - als waft - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ a

37

40

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

A breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

T breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

B breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

40

43

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

B Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

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46

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S be Kum Bu - ba Ya - li

A be Kum Bu - ba Ya - li

T Kum Bu-ba Tam - be Kum Bu-ba Ya -

B Kum Bu-ba Tam - be Kum Bu-ba Ya -

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49

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

A Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

T li Kum Bu-ba Tam - be

B li Kum Bu-ba Tam - be

52

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

A li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

T Kum Bu-ba Ya - li Kum Bu-ba Tam -

B Kum Bu-ba Ya - li Kum Bu-ba Tam -

55

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T be Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

B be Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

58

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S be A-men! we say your names

A be A-men! we say your names

T A-men! we say your names

B A-men! we say your names

61 Meditatively ♩ = 60

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this — star - dust will car - ry us

A Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

T Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this — star - dust will car - ry us

B Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

65

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S home one day

A home one day — To a home where we can run — oo —

T home one day A home where we can pray

B home one day A home where we can pray —

68

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.  
home where we can breathe \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_ to sleep and dream \_\_\_\_\_

A oo \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_ to sleep and dream \_\_\_\_\_

T A home where we can pray to sleep and dream \_\_\_\_\_

B A home where we can pray to sleep and dream \_\_\_\_\_

68

71

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.  
with out fear is just - ice this far a - way \_\_\_\_\_

A with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way \_\_\_\_\_

T with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way \_\_\_\_\_

B with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way \_\_\_\_\_

71

74 ♩ = 85

**S** *f* we cry your names we cry your names for the

**A** *f* we cry your names we cry your names for the

**T** *f* we cry your names we cry your names for the

**B** *f* we cry your names we cry your names for the

Piano accompaniment for measures 74-76, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more melodic line in the left hand.

**S** strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

**A** strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

**T** strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

**B** strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

Piano accompaniment for measures 77-79, continuing the eighth-note accompaniment and melodic lines from the previous section.

\* Divisi optional.

79

S names we cry your names for the

A names we cry your names for the

T names we cry your names for the

B names we cry your names for the

79

81

S strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

A strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

T strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

B strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

81

83

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_ your

A names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_ your

T names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_ your

B names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_ your

83

87

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_

A names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_

T names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_

B names \_\_\_\_\_ your names \_\_\_\_\_

87

Slow and reflective

91 *mf*

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

T Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

B Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

91 *mf*

Slow and reflective

96 *mp*

S li star - dust

A li star - dust

T li star - dust

B li star - dust

96 *mp*

101

S *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*  
 If we are

A  
 If we are

T  
 If we are

B  
 If we are

101

Piano accompaniment for measures 101-104, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

105

S  
 If we are

A  
 If we are

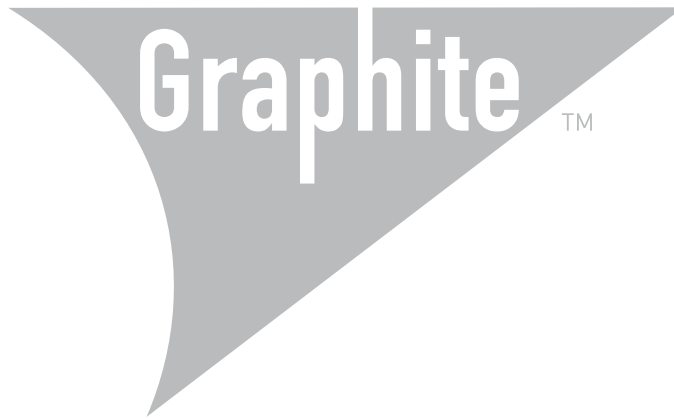
T  
 If we are

B  
 If we are

105

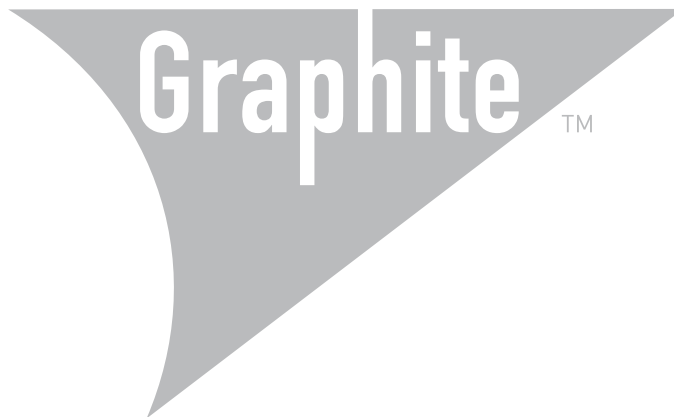
Piano accompaniment for measures 105-108, continuing the rhythmic pattern from the previous section.

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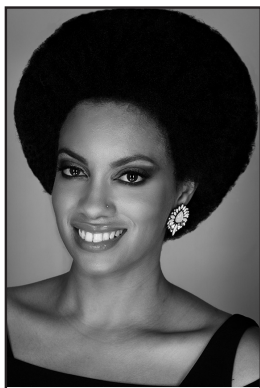
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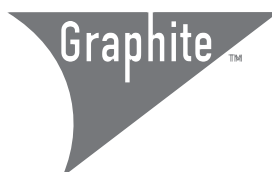
## B.E. Boykin



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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Reignal Wright	GP-W008	Life's Mirror	SATB, piano



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