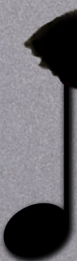


SAUNDER  
CHOI

NEVER AGAIN

for SMATBB div. *a cappella*

SAUNDER CHOI *music*



## PROGRAM NOTES:

In the wake of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman wrote: “May we not just grieve, but give: May we not just ache, but act” in her poem *Hymn for the Hurting*. This call to action is the inspiration behind *Never Again*, a commentary about the true cost of freedom in a country where the intersection of politics, capitalism, and gun lobbies stand in the way of sensible legislation.

*Never Again* was commissioned by Seattle Pro Musica - Karen P. Thomas, Artistic Director. The world premiere was given in Seattle on February 11, 2023.

## TEXT:

Sister's backpack came home without her.  
We may never speak again.

Not enough amendments to mend a broken heart;  
A country ripped apart by freedoms, begging  
For control, controlled by weapons  
In the shape of men, pens poised  
To write another future, hearts poisoned  
To the thought of change.

Sister's backpack came home without her.  
Again we speak: never again.

If there is power in pain, let us build  
A monument beyond our founding,  
Life and liberty on the same line,  
a line in the sand between just enough  
& justice, & we have had enough,  
Not enough amendments to mend a broken heart;  
A country ripped apart by freedoms

Sister's backpack came home without her.  
We may never speak again.

*-Brian Sonia-Wallace*

commissioned by Seattle Pro Musica  
Karen P. Thomas, Artistic Director

# Never Again

for SMATBB div. a cappella

Brian Sonia-Wallace

Saunder Choi

Moderately  $\text{♩} = 68$   
*pp*

Soprano  
hmm

Alto  
*p* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

Tenor  
*p* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

Bass  
*p* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

4

S.  
ooh

A.  
*cresc.* 3 *mp* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

T.  
*cresc.* 3 *mp* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

B.  
*cresc.* 3 *mp* 3  
ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

6

S.

A. *3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain *dim. 3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain

T. *3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain *dim. 3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain

B. *3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain *dim. 3* ne-ver a-gain *3* ne-ver a-gain

**A** Mezzo solo:  
*mp* soulful lament

8

Solo

Sis - ter's back - pack came home with-out her, came home with-out her. My

S. *pp* hmm

A. *pp* hmm

T. *pp 3* ne-ver a-gain

B.

12

Solo

sis - ter's back - pack came home with-out her, came home with-out her. We may

S.

ne-ver a-gain

A.

ne-ver a-gain

T.

hmm

B.

hmm

*p* *mp*

16

Solo

ne - ver speak a - gain

S.

ooh ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

A.

ooh ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a - gain\*

T.

ooh ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

B.

ooh ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain

*mp* *p* *pp*

\*close to 'n'

20 **B**

S. *pp* *3* *\*close to 'n'*  
ne-ver a - gain\* —

M-S. *pp* *3* *\*close to 'n'*  
ne-ver a - gain\*

A.

T. *p*  
Not\_ e-nough a-mend - ments to mend a bro-ken heart; A coun-try ripped a - part\_ by

B. *p*  
Not\_ e-nough a-mend - ments to mend a bro-ken heart; A coun-try ripped a - part\_ by

23

S. *p* *3*  
Free - doms. ne - ver a - gain\* —

M-S. *p* *3*  
Free - doms. ne - ver a - gain\*

A. *p* *3*  
Free - doms. ne - ver a - gain\* —

T. *mp*  
free - doms. Beg - ging,

B. *mp*  
free - doms. Beg - ging,

26

S. *mp* ne-ver a - gain\* con-trolled by wea-pons in the shape of men,

M-S. *mp* ne-ver a - gain\* con-trolled by wea-pons in the shape of men,

A. *mp* ne-ver a - gain\* con-trolled by wea-pons in the shape of men,

T. *mf* beg - ging for con - trol, Beg - ging

B. *mf* beg - ging for con - trol, Beg - ging

29

S. *mf* *poco f* Con-trol in the shape of

M-S. *mf* *poco f* Con-trol in the shape of

A. *mf* *poco f* Con-trol in the shape of

T. *mp* *poco f* con - trol, con-trolled by wea-pons in the shape of

Bar. *mp* *poco f* con-trolled by wea-pons, con-trol in the shape of

B. *mp* *poco f* con - trol, con-trol, con-trolled by wea-pons in the shape of

C

33 *mf*

S. pens poised\_ to write a - no - ther fu - ture, con - trol,

M-S. pens poised\_ to write a - no - ther fu - ture, con - trol,

A. pens poised\_ to write a - no - ther fu - ture, con - trol,

T. *mp* con - trol, con - trol to write a - no - ther fu - ture,

Bar. *mp* con - trol, con - trol, con - trol,

B. *mp* con - trol, con - trol, con - trol,

36 *poco f* *poco rit.*

S. hearts poi-soned to the thought of\_ change, of change

M-S. hearts poi-soned to the thought of\_ change, of change

A. hearts poi-soned to the thought of\_ change, of change

T. *mf* con - trol, con - trol of change.

Bar. *mf* con - trol, con - trol of change.

B. *mf* con - trol, con - trol of change.

**D** a tempo

39

S. *p* Sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mp*  
 My

M-S. *p* Sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mp*  
 My

A. *p* Sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mp*  
 My

T. *p* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her.

Bar. *p legato* her back-pack came home with - out her.

B. *p legato* her back-pack came home with - out her.

43

S. *mf* sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mf*  
 A -

M-S. *mf* sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mf*  
 A -

A. *mf* sis - ter's back - pack came\_ home with-out\_ her,\_ came\_ home with-out\_ her.\_ *mf*  
 A -

T. *mp* Sis - ter's back - pack\_ came home, home with - out her. *mf*  
 A -

Bar. *mp* My sis - ter's back - pack\_ came home home with - out her. *mf*  
 A -

B. *mp* My sis - ter's back - pack\_ came home home with - out her. *mf*  
 A -

47

S. *mf* *bold vowel* *p*  
gain we speak: ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

M-S. *mf* *bold vowel* *p*  
gain we speak: ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

A. *mf* *bold vowel* *p*  
gain we speak: ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

T.  
gain we speak:

Bar. gain we speak:

B. gain we speak:

51

S. *mp*  
ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

M-S. *mp*  
ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

A. *mp*  
ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain, ne-ver a-gain,

T. *p warmly* *mp*  
Ne - ver a - gain. Ne - ver a -

Bar. *p warmly* *mp*  
Ne - ver a - gain. Ne - ver a -

B. *p warmly* *mp*  
Ne - ver a - gain. Ne - ver a -

poco rall. . . . .

54

S. *mf* ne-ver a - gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

M-S. *mf* ne-ver a - gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

A. *mf* ne-ver a - gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

T. *mf* gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

Bar. *mf* gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

B. *mf* gain. Ne - ver a - gain. If there is

**E** a tempo

57 *poco f with intention*

S. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let us build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

M-S. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let us build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

A. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let us build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

T. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let us build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

Bar. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let's build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

B. *poco f with intention* po - wer in pain, let's build a mo - nu - ment be - yond our found - ing,

61

S. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line, *mf* a line in the sand,

M-S. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line, *mf* a line in the

A. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line, *mp* a

T. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line,

Bar. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line,

B. *f* Life and li-ber-ty on the same line,

65 *rit.*

S. *p floated* a line be - tween.

M-S. *p floated* sand, a line

A. *p floated* line in the sand, a line

T. *mp* a line in the sand, *p floated* a line be - tween,

Bar. *p floated* a line

B. *p floated* a line

69 **F** A little slower ♩ = 60

S. *mp* And we have

M-S. (*p*) just e - nough, just e - nough, just e - nough,

A. (*p*) just enough, just e - nough, just e - nough, just e - nough,

T. be - tween, be - tween, be - tween,

Bar. (*p*) jus - tice, jus - tice, jus - tice, jus - tice,

B. (*p*) jus - tice, jus - tice, jus - tice, jus - tice.

73 *mf*

S. had e - nough, we have had e - nough,

M-S. *mp* just e - nough, just e - nough, just e - nough,

A. *mp* just e - nough, just e - nough, just e - nough,

T. *mp* be - tween, be - tween, be - tween,

Bar. *mp* jus - tice, jus - tice, jus - tice,

B. *mp* 3 Ne-ver a - gain, 3 ne-ver a - gain, 3 ne-ver a - gain,

rall. . . . .

*poco f*

a tempo

*p*

76

S. e - nough. Not e-nough a-mend-ments to

M-S. just e - nough. Not e-nough a-mend-ments to

A. just e - nough. *p*\*nasal, fast morphing vowels  
\*/aeiou/...

T. be - tween. *p*  
\*/aeiou/...

Bar. jus - - tice. *p*  
\*/aeiou/...

B. jus - - tice.

80

S. mend a bro - ken heart; A coun - try ripped a - part by free-doms.

M-S. mend a bro - ken heart; A coun - try ripped a - part by free-doms.

A.

T.

Bar.

B.

**G** Tempo I ♩ = 68

83

S. *mp* Free dom, *rall. poco f* free-dom.

M-S. *mp* Free dom, *mf* free-dom,

A. *mp* Free dom, *mf* free-dom, *f* free - dom.

T. *p* con - trol, *mf* con-trolled by wea-pons, con-trol.

Bar. *p* con-trolled by wea-pons, *mf* con-trol, con-trol.

B. *p* con - trol, *mf* con-trol, con-trolled by wea-pons, con-trol

**H** Broadly

87

S. *f* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. My *ff*

M-S. *f* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. My *ff*

A. *f* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. My *ff*

T. *f* Sis - ter's back pack came home, home with - out my *ff*

Bar. *f* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. *ff*

B. *f* Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. *ff*

91

S. *meno f*  
sis - ter's back - pack came home with-out her, came home with-out her. We may

M-S.  
sis - ter's back - pack came home with-out her, came home with-out her.

A. *meno f*  
sis - ter's back - pack came home with-out her, came home with-out her. We may

T.  
sis - ter, home with - out my sis - ter We may

Bar. *meno f*  
Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. We may

B. *meno f*  
Sis - ter's back - pack came home with - out her. We may

95

S. *meno f*  
ne - ver speak a - gain, ne - ver speak a -

M-S. *meno f*  
And we have had e - nough, ne - ver speak a -

A. *meno f*  
ne - ver speak a - gain. And we have had e - nough,

T. *meno f*  
ne - ver, ne - ver speak a - gain.

Bar. *meno f*  
ne - ver, ne - ver speak And we have had e - nough,

B. *meno f*  
ne - ver, ne - ver speak a - gain.

rit. - - - - -

98

S. gain. Ne - ver speak a - gain.

M-S. gain. And we have had e - nough, a - gain.

A. ne - ver speak a - gain.

T. Ne - ver speak, we may ne - ver speak a - gain.

Bar. e - nough. Ne - ver a - gain.

B. Ne - ver speak a - gain, ne - ver a - gain.

*mp*

*mp*

102 Slower  $\text{♩} = 60$

S. nn ne-ver a-gain

A. *p*  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain *pp* half-whispered  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain

T. *p*  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain *pp* half-whispered  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain

B. *p*  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain ne-ver a-gain *pp* half-whispered  $\text{trill}$  ne-ver a-gain