

Every Heart Shall Open  
SATB, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach



## Every Heart Shall Open

for a cappella SATB choir

Commissioned for True Concord's  
2023 Lessons & Carols by Candlelight Concerts



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## Text:

When there dawns a certain Star  
Comes a Stranger into the city;  
The feet of prayer his dear feet are,  
His hands they are the hands of pity.

Every houseplace rich and poor  
Shall show for welcome a sprig of green,  
And every heart shall open its door  
To let the Stranger enter in.

I will set my door ajar  
That he may enter if he please;  
The eyes of love his dear eyes are,  
His brow it is the brow of peace.

Through the heart of every child  
And every person in the city  
They shall pass, and all be filled  
With love and peace and prayer and pity.

- Eleanor Farjeon, "A Child's Carol," *adapt. TCT*

## From the Composer:

There are times when, as a composer, it feels fun to flex a bit, show off your composer-y muscles and break the mold. And there are other times when instinct and heart take over, and the piece you are writing shows up at your doorstep, not hiding, not elusive, but present and ready.

In writing a new song for True Concord's Lessons and Carols, this poem of Farjeon's volunteered itself to be a true carol with lines that scan rhythmically across stanzas and a refrain that when repeated helps embed her message in us. With help from the poetry, this music simply showed up for me.

I have included the option to use gender neutral 3rd person pronouns in this piece. Farjeon has used metaphors in her other poetry (Rose, Guest, Love) when she refers to Jesus, but here, when she references The Stranger, she may mean the Christ Child specifically, and she may mean a non-sacred instance of a stranger. Regardless of the poet's intention, there is a passage in John 10:30 when Jesus says "I and the Father are one," and so referring to the divine as a plural they feels very natural.

In the spirit of Christmas, I find the most joy in seeing the birth of Jesus as hope for humankind. Farjeon's second stanza, for which this carol is titled, seems to me to be the heart of the text, asking us, no matter who we are in society, to be careful with each other, to let others approach our welcoming arms, and to open our hearts to those who are different than us, who are strangers to us.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2023

# Every Heart Shall Open

for SATB a cappella

Eleanor Farjeon

Timothy C. Takach

$\text{♩} = 104$   
*mp*

Soprano  
When there dawns a cer - tain Star Comes a Stran - ger *mf*

Alto  
When there dawns a cer - tain Star Comes a Stran - ger *mf*

Tenor  
When there dawns a cer - tain Star Comes a Stran - ger *mf*

Bass  
When there dawns a cer - tain Star Comes a Stran - ger *mf*

(for rehearsal only)  
*mp* *cresc.* *mf*

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S  
in - to the cit - y; The feet of prayer

A  
in - to the cit - y; The feet of prayer his (their) dear feet

T  
in - to the cit - y; The feet of prayer his (their) dear feet

B  
in - to the cit - y; The feet of prayer his (their) dear feet

*dim.* *cresc.*



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12

S His (Their) hands of pit - y. Eve - ry

A are, His (Their) hands they are the hands of pit - y. Eve - ry

T are, His (Their) hands they are the hands of pit - y. Eve - ry

B are, His (Their) hands, hands of pit - y. Eve - ry

*f* *mf* *mp* warmly

18

S house - place rich and poor Shall show for wel - come a sprig of green,

A house - place rich and poor Shall show for wel - come a sprig of

T house - place rich and poor Shall show for wel - come a sprig of

B house - place rich and poor Shall show for wel - come a sprig of

*cresc.* *dim.*

24 *mp*

S And eve - ry heart shall o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger

A *mp*  
green, Eve - ry heart shall o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger

T *mp*  
green, Eve - ry heart shall o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger

B *mp*  
green, Eve - ry heart shall o - pen its door let the Stran - ger

31 *p* *mf*

S en - ter in. I will set my door a - jar That he (they) may en - ter

A *p* *mf*  
en - ter in. I will set my door a - jar That he (they) may en - ter

T *p* *mf*  
en - ter in. My door a - jar That he (they) may en - ter

B *p*  
en - ter in. My door a - jar

39

S if he (they) please; *mp* The eyes of love his (their) dear eyes are, His (Their)

A if he (they) please; *mp* The eyes of love his (their) dear eyes are, His (Their)

T if he (they) please; *mp* The eyes of love His (Their)

B *mp* The eyes *pp* His (Their)

*dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

46

S *mf* brow it is the brow of peace. *mp* *warmly* Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

A *mf* brow it is the brow of peace. *mp* *warmly* Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

T *mf* brow of peace. *mp* *warmly* Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

B *mf* brow of peace. *mp* *warmly* Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

*mf* *dim.* *mp*

54 *mp*

S show for wel - come a sprig of green, And eve - ry heart shall

A show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eye - ry heart shall

T show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eve - ry heart shall

B show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eve - ry heart shall

*cresc.* *dim.* *mp*

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S o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in.

A o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in.

T o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter through the

B o - pen its door let the Stran - ger en - ter in. Through

*cresc.*

66 *f*

S Through the heart of eve - ry child And eve - ry per - son in the

A Through the heart of eve - ry child And eve - ry per - son in the

T heart, the heart of eve - ry child And eve - ry per - son in the

B the heart of eve - ry child And eve - ry per - son in the

73 *mf* *f* *mf*

S cit - y He (They) shall pass, and all be filled With love and peace and

A cit - y He (They) shall pass, and all be filled With love and peace and

T cit - y He (They) shall pass, and all be filled With love and peace and

B cit - y He (They) shall pass, and all be filled With love and peace and

80 *mf*

Solo

S

A

T

B

prayer and pit - y. \_\_\_\_\_ Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

prayer and pit - y. \_\_\_\_\_ Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

prayer and pit - y. \_\_\_\_\_ Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

prayer and pit - y. \_\_\_\_\_ Eve - ry house - place rich and poor Shall

87

Solo

S

A

T

B

show wel - come \_\_\_\_\_ And eve - ry heart shall \_\_\_\_\_

show for wel - come a sprig of green, And eve - ry heart shall

show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eve - ry heart shall

show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eve - ry heart shall

show for wel - come a sprig of green, Eve - ry heart shall

93 *f* *mf*

Solo *f* *mf* *p*

o - pen To let them en - ter in. And

S o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in. *p*

A o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in. *p*

T o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in. *p*

B o - pen its door let the Stran - ger en - ter in. *p*

*cresc.* *dim.*

99 *poco rit.* *Slowly* *mp*

Solo *poco rit.* *Slowly* *mp*

e - ry heart shall o - pen its door To let the Stran - ger en - ter in.

S

A

T (n)...

B (n)...

*poco rit.* *Slowly* *mp* *p*

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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 |
| 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                                |
| 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                              |
| Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius |                       | SSATBB a cappella                              |
| One Boy Told Me                           |                       | SATB, piano                                    |
| Ragnarök                                  |                       | SATB div. a cappella                           |
| Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred) |                       | SSAATTBB a cappella                            |
| This Amazing Life                         |                       | SA(T)B, piano                                  |

### Treble Voices

|   |                       |                           |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| And I Saw                                       |                       | SSAA div. a cappella      |
| Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay                       |                       | 2-part, piano             |
| Cassiopeia                                      |                       | SSA a cappella            |
| Duende  |                       | SSAA, floor toms          |
| How to Triumph Like a Girl                      | (Graphite Publishing) | SSA, piano                |
| The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song) | (Graphite Publishing) | Unison, TTB, piano        |
| There is No Rose                                | (Lorelei Ensemble)    | SSAA, SS soli, a cappella |
| She Tore a Map                                  | (Graphite Publishing) | SA, piano                 |

### TB Voices

|                  |                       |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Empty            |                       | TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe |
| 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 |
| Helios (ca. 65') with optional projections                 |  | 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                           |
| We, the Unknown (ca. 40')                                  |  | TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra                 |