

JS-110 / Invincible / SSAA, piano / Szymko / dur: 4'15"

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JOAN SZYMKO

*"in the midst of winter I found within me an invincible summer"*

# INVINCIBLE

for  
ssaa chorus  
&  
piano

JOAN SZYMKO MUSIC



Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's choral music is regularly performed at regional, national and international choral festivals, competitions and conferences. Utilizing a familiar music vocabulary, she creates works that are nonetheless fresh and engaging; compelling and inspiring, her text selections are as notable as her music. Szymko has been commissioned by every type of choral ensemble and is widely recognized as a foremost American composer of exceptional repertoire for women's choir. The American Choral Director's Association recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as the recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010.

Joan Szymko lives and works in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Since 1995 she has enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Portland based DoJump! Movement Theater, creating musical underscoring for major touring productions. A dynamic conductor, she has served on the choral music faculty of Portland State University (2013-15) and led Aurora Chorus (Portland) as Artistic Director from 1993-2020. As a visiting artist, Szymko workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad.

For more info see: [www.joanszymko.com](http://www.joanszymko.com).

## INVINCIBLE

- anon. and Albert Camus\*

*In the midst of hate, I found there was  
within me, an invincible love.  
In the midst of tears, I found there was  
within me, an invincible smile.  
In the midst of chaos, I found there was  
within me, an invincible calm.*

*I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter,  
I found there was within me  
an invincible summer.  
Invincible calm, invincible smile—  
Invincible love.*

*No matter how hard the world  
pushes against me, I know  
There's something stronger,  
something better, something  
there within me pushing back—  
An invincible summer.  
Invincible calm, invincible smile—  
Invincible love.*

\* "Albert Camus is widely considered as the author of this text, but he is not. Nevertheless, he is surely the author of the isolated sentence 'in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.' It appears in *Return to Tipasa*, a lyrical essay contained in the 1954 book *Summer (L'Été)*. It seems, then, that someone took this original quote and extended it, maybe trying to reach a higher level of sentimentalism and poeticalness."

Reference: "The noble art of misquoting Camus"  
<http://www.academia.edu/>

from the COMPOSER

I wrote *Invincible* over the summer of 2021 under the shadow of a persistent pandemic, devastating climate change events and an ever increasing and depressing incivility in the socio-political culture of the United States. I found great solace and encouragement in this text and found within me, if not an invincible calm, an emergence of joy within the creative act of composing. My hope is that those singing this work find joy in performing it.

Commissioned by the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association, Stephania Abell, President.  
Dedicated to the 2021 OkMEA All-State Treble Chorus, Stephanie Keegan-Moring, All-State Chair.  
Premiered by the 2022 OkMEA All-State Treble Chorus, Teresa Pointer, All-State Chair.

# INVINCIBLE

Anonymous &  
Albert Camus\* (1913-1960)

Joan Szymko

♩=72 Unison *p*

In the midst of hate, I found there was with

Piano

## FOR PERUSAL ONLY

5 *mp* *mf*

S. in me, with-in me, an in-vin-ci-ble love. In the midst of

S. in me, with-in me, an in-vin-ci-ble love. In the midst of

A. in me, with-in me, an in-vin-ci-ble love. In the midst of

A. in me, with-in me, an in-vin-ci-ble love. In the midst of

Pno. *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

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\*lyric adapted by the composer from an anonymous expansion on a quote  
by Albert Camus from the essay, *Return to Tipasa* in the book, *Ete* (1954)

4 **10** *p* **Poco più mosso** ♩=80 *div.* **poco accel.**

S. *p* I found there was with - in me, I found with -

S. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* I found there was with - in me, I found with -

A. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* tears, I found there was, with - in me, I found there was, with -

A. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* tears, I found there was, with - in me, I found there was, with -

**10** **Poco più mosso** ♩=80 **poco accel.**

Pno. *cresc. poco a poco*

## FOR PERUSAL ONLY

**14** *mf* **A tempo**

S. in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In -

S. *mf* in me, in - vin - ci - ble smile. In -

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In - vin - ci - ble, in -

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble smile. In - vin - ci - ble, in -

**14** **A tempo**

Pno. *mf*

Poco più mosso

5 18

S. *f* vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

S. *f* vin - ci - ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

A. *f* vin - ci ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

A. *f* vin - ci ble smile. In the midst of cha-os I found there was with

Poco più mosso

18

Pno. *cresc.*

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

poco rit. . . . .

Tempo primo

22

S. *mf* in me, an in - vin - - ci - ble calm, an in -

S. *mf* in me, an in - vin - - ci - ble calm, an in -

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm,

A. *mf* in me, an in - vin - ci - ble calm,

poco rit. . . . .

Tempo primo

22

Pno. *mf* *mp*

26 **Meno mosso** ♩=58 *p*

S. vin - ci-ble calm,

A. an in-vin-ci-ble calm,

*molto espress.*  
**Meno mosso** ♩=58 *p mp p*

Pno.

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

30 **accel.** **Tempo primo** *mp*

S. I re - a - lized, through it all, that

S. that

A. *mp* I re - a - lized, through it all,

A. *mp* I re - a - lized through it

**accel.** **Tempo primo** *p mp*

Pno.

Ped.

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41 **accel.** . . . . . **f** . . . . . **poco rall.** . . . . . **ff**  $\text{♩} = 80$

S. in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in - vin - ci - ble love. \_\_\_\_\_

S. in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in - vin - ci - ble love. \_\_\_\_\_

A. in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in - vin - ci - ble love. \_\_\_\_\_

A. in - vin - ci - ble, in - vin - ci - ble in - vin - ci - ble love. \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. **f** **mf** **ff**  $\text{♩} = 80$

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

46 **f**

S. Love! \_\_\_\_\_ love! \_\_\_\_\_ in - vin - ci - ble

S. Love! \_\_\_\_\_ love! \_\_\_\_\_ in - vin - ci - ble

A. Love! \_\_\_\_\_ love! \_\_\_\_\_ in - vin - ci - ble

A. Love! \_\_\_\_\_ love! \_\_\_\_\_ in - vin - ci - ble

Pno. **f** **ff**

9

49



S.

love!

S.

love!

A.

love!

A.

love!

49



*bring out the appoggiatura feel*

Pno.

*steady in the bass*

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

52

S.

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

S.

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

A.

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

A.

No mat-ter how hard the world push-es a-gainst me,

52

Pno.

10

55

S.  I know there's some-thing strong-er, —

S.  I know there's some-thing strong-er, — some-thing there with-in me,

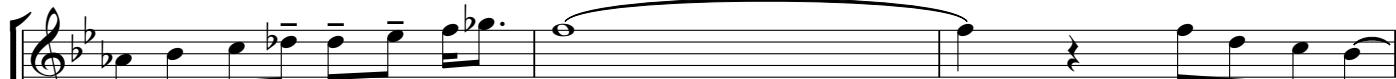
A.  some-thing bet-ter,

A.  some-thing bet-ter, some-thing there with-in me,

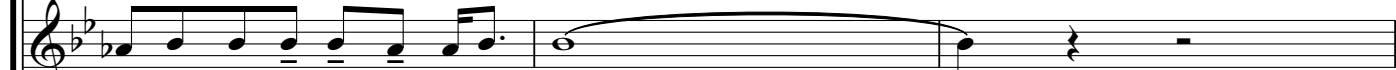
Pno.  55

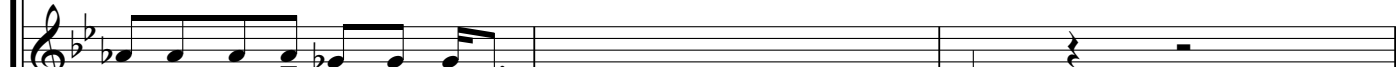
# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

58

S.  some-thing there with -in me push-ing back. — some-thing strong- er\_

S.  some-thing there with -in me push-ing back. —

A.  some-thing there with -in me push-ing back. —

A.  some-thing there with -in me push-ing back. —

Pno.  58 *as before*

11 61

S. \_\_\_\_\_ push - ing back.

S. Some - thing there with - in me push - ing back.

A. Some - thing bet - ter \_\_\_\_\_ push - ing back.

A. Some - thing there with - in me push - ing back.

Pno.

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

63 *subito p* An in - vin - ci - ble sum - mer, *mf* in -

S. *subito p* An in - vin - ci - ble sum - mer, *mf* in -

A. *mp* in - vin - ci - ble calm, *mf* in -

A. *mp* in - vin - ci - ble calm, *mf* in -

63 *p* *pp* *mp*

Pno.

12 67

S. *div.* *f*  
 vin - ci-ble smile, in - vin - ci-ble, in - vin - ci-ble in -

S. *f*  
 vin - ci-ble smile, in - vin - ci-ble, in - vin - ci-ble in -

A. *f*  
 vin - ci-ble smile, in - vin - ci-ble, in - vin - ci-ble in -

A. *f* *f*  
 vin - ci-ble smile, in - vin - ci-ble, in - vin - ci-ble in -

Pno. *mf* *f*

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

71

S. *ff*  
 vin - ci - ble love!

S. *div.* *ff*  
 vin - ci - ble love!

A. *ff*  
 vin - ci - ble love!

A. *ff*  
 vin - ci - ble love!

Pno. *ff*

74 *f* *ff* *molto rall.* *A tempo*

S. In-vin-ci-ble love!

S. In-vin-ci-ble love!

A. In-vin-ci-ble love!

A. In-vin-ci-ble love!

74 *molto rall.* *A tempo*

Pno. *simile* *dim.* *mf*

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

78 *mp* *niente* *p*

S. Love. Love.

A. *p* *niente* *p*

Love. Love.

78 *p* *mp* *pp* *pp*

Pno.