

A Departing Blessing
SATB, C inst.
JH - GRL09

Amelia Ouverson

pdf - \$1.95
printed - \$3.25

A Departing Blessing

Amelia Ouverson

for SATB choir, C instrument



COMPOSE
LIKE A **GIRL**

Illustration: KT Thompson

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From the Poet:

“A Departing Blessing” is a poem inspired by an Irish travelers’ prayers that my father decorated our childhood home with when I was young. The majority of the text was written in January of 2020 as I was preparing to travel with the Wartburg Choir on our international tour that year. Little did any of us know of the scale of tragedies that lay before us that year. Far greater than losing the chance to tour that year, our community at Wartburg lost one of its most inspiring and caring professors, Dr. Paula Maria Survilla, to a rare degenerative brain disorder called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Shortly after her passing, the decision was made to dedicate this musical collaboration to her life and legacy and it was included as part of her memorial services. I am an ardent believer that art is meant to change and grow as we change and grow in our own lives. What began to me as some musings in a notepad has now become a memorial and a work of art thanks to the support of Graphite Publishing, my community at Wartburg, and the incredible talent and dedication of my colleague, Amelia Ouverson. Now it is presented to you, and it is my sincerest hope that it will bring to you the message and comfort that you seek now and in the future.

- Andrew F. Newell

Andrew Newell is an alumnus of Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, graduating Magna cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. His areas of research interest are American legal history and German-American ethnic history. Andrew is originally from Waverly, IA, where he was involved in a variety of speech competitions, theatrical productions, and both instrumental and vocal ensembles. Andrew began his work as a lyricist in February of 2020, working in collaboration with Amelia Ouverson on compositions for The Wartburg Choir, Una Vocis, and other local ensembles.



Amelia Ouverson is a current undergraduate student at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, pursuing degrees in Music Education and Religion. Amelia is from Mason City, IA, and was surrounded by music for much of her childhood- participating in band, choir, and church worship. Amelia holds leadership positions in The Wartburg Choir, Wartburg’s National Association for Music Education chapter, and leads an emerging student composers society at Wartburg. Amelia began her composition journey in February of 2020 and has since composed for numerous ensembles at Wartburg including The Wartburg Choir, and several student-led ensembles. Amelia is the current Composer in Residence for Una Vocis of Mason City, IA, and plans to continue her composition endeavors alongside her teaching career.

for Dr. Maria Paula Survilla

A Departing Blessing

for SATB a cappella choir with soloists and violin (or other C or Bb instrument)

Andrew F. Newell

Amelia Ouverson

Do not photocopy.

♩ = 88
solo with rubato

Soprano
Be - fore you ven - ture on your own and leave this home be - hind, may

Piano
for rehearsal only

6 *solo*

S God grant you wis - dom, cour - age, and for - ti - tude of mind. And

A *solo*
And

Piano

10 *add another solo*

S in de - part - ing through my door to seek a tem - per'ate place, may

A in de - part - ing through my door to seek a tem - per'ate place, may

10

Piano



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15

S God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

A God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

15

19 *tutti* *p* stagger breathe

S Ah

A *tutti* *p* stagger breathe

Ah

T *mf*

B *mf*

You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

19 You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

25

S As path leads on to

A As path leads on to

T 8 God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

B 25 God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

30

mp *rit.*

S fur - ther path, — be - yond the world — you've — known, may — God re - store your

A fur - ther path, — be - yond the world — you've — known, may — God re - store your

T fur - ther path, the world you've, oh the world you've known, Oh

B fur - ther path, the world you've, oh the world you've known, Oh

34

a tempo

Vln. *mf*

S cloud-ing eyes to — show you how you've grown. Oh —

A cloud-ing eyes to — show you how you've grown. Oh —

T cloud-ing eyes show you how you've grown. Oh —

B cloud-ing eyes show you how you've grown. Oh —

p seamless stagger breathe

p stagger breathe

p stagger breathe

p stagger breathe

34

40

Vln.

S

A

T

B

40

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

For —

For —

For —

For —

For —

40

45

Vln.

S

A

T

B

45

Ah*

you shall find a place to rest Be-neath a wil - low tree where God will guide your

you shall find a place to rest Be-neath a wil - low tree where God will guide your

you shall find a place to rest Be-neath a wil - low tree where God will guide your

you shall find a place to rest Be-neath a wil - low tree where God will guide your

45

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*a few sopranos, stagger breathe

50

Vln.

S
solo mp with rubato
 dream - ing soul to live e - ter - nal - ly. But wor - ry not — my soul, — my heart, we'll

A
solo mp
 dream - ing soul to live e - ter - nal - ly. But — wor - ry not — my soul, — my heart, we'll —

T
 dream - ing soul live e - ter - nal - ly.

B
 dream - ing soul live e - ter - nal - ly.

50

joceelyn chagen

55

S
tutti mp tenderly
 meet a - gain — some — day, for — God will place the ones we love — to —

A
tutti mp
 meet a - gain — some — day, for — God will place the ones we love — to —

T
mp
 God will place the ones we love

B
mp
 God will place the ones we love

55

59

Vln. *mf*

S *p* stagger breathe
greet us on the way. Mm

A *p* stagger breathe
greet us on the way. Mm

T *p* stagger breathe
greet us on the way. Mm

B *p* stagger breathe
greet us on the way. Mm
(bass 1 optional)

59

Jocelyn Chagen

64

Vln.

S *pp*

A *pp*

T *pp*

B *pp*

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64

for Dr. Maria Paula Survilla

A Departing Blessing

C instrument part

Andrew F. Newell

Amelia Ouverson

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22 *a tempo*

41 *ff*

46

53 *with rubato*

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63



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Another great piece from the Compose Like a Girl Choral Series

JH-GRL12

pdf download \$1.95

To The American University Chorus, Casey Cook, conductor

Life Has a Loveliness

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SATB divisi & piano

Sara Teasdale

Grace Brigham

Sensitively,
with admiration ♩ = 60 *rit. a tempo*

mp

Piano

The piano accompaniment for the first system is written in a grand staff with two systems of staves. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/D-flat minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The first measure is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

pedal ad. lib.

jocelyn chagen

5 *mp*

T
Life _____ has a love-li-ness _____ to sell, All beau - ti - ful and

B
Life _____ has a love-li-ness _____ to sell, All beau - ti - ful and

mp

The vocal staves for Soprano (T) and Bass (B) are shown for the first system. Both parts begin at measure 5. The lyrics are: "Life _____ has a love-li-ness _____ to sell, All beau - ti - ful and". The dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (*mp*).

p

The piano accompaniment for the second system is written in a grand staff with two systems of staves. The key signature is three flats and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with the same accompaniment style as the first system. The first measure of this system is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

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Another great piece from the Compose Like a Girl Choral Series

Grace Brigham

Life Has a Loveliness

JH-GRL12

8

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T
splen-did things, Blue — waves whit-ened on — a cliff,

B
splen-did things, Blue — waves whit-ened on — a cliff,

mp

11

jocelyn chagen

S
Ah

A
Ah

T
Soar-ing fire — that — sways and sings, — Ah

B
Soar-ing fire — that — sways and sings, — And

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COMPOSE LIKE A GIRL



Support Compose Like a Girl on Patreon!

Become a subscriber and all donations will go to mentorship, engraving, editing, content creation, and advertising to support these amazing women composers. For many of the women featured in this series, these pieces are their first published works. Podcast coming soon!



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JH-GRL02	Suzy Johnson	A Respectable Bird	3-part treble choir, B \flat clarinet, piano
JH-GRL03	Liv Grace	Hear Me Roar	SSAA a cappella choir
JH-GRL04	Sherry Blevins	Looking for Light	SSA choir, piano
JH-GRL05	Sherry Blevins	If I Call to You, My Love	SATB div., solo, a cappella choir
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JH-GRL09	Amelia Ouverson	A Departing Blessing	SATB choir, C instrument
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JH-GRL18.1	Ellen Voth	The Harbor and the Sea	SSAA, piano, B \flat clarinet



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