

For Aurora Chorus with love and gratitude  
in celebration of her 25th Anniversary Season

# Stars in Your Bones

Alla Bozarth

Joan Szymko

*♩=68* *Maestoso* *f* *mf*

Tutti Unison

The small plot of ground on which you were born can-not be ex-pect-ed to

Piano

*♩=68* [play black key clusters with hand/arm] *ff*

Ped.

for perusal only

5 *f* *dim.* *poco accel.*

stay for-ev-er the same.

*poco accel.* *mf*

Ped.

8 **Più mosso** ♩=74  
*mp*

Unison ends

**Più mosso** ♩=74  
*mp*

*mf*

(no ped.)

10 **A** S1 *mp*

Earth chang - es,

**A**

*p*

Ped.

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12 add S2 *p* *mp* S1 only

S1 S2 earth chang - es and home

A1 *mp* Earth chang - es

A2 *mp* Earth chang - es

*ped. simile*

16

S1  
be-comes dif - frent pla - ces, —

S2  
*mp* and home, *mf*

A1  
*mp* and home, *mf*

A2  
*mp* and home, *mf*

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18

S1  
home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

S2  
*mf* dif - frent pla - ces —

A1  
*mf* home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

A2  
*mf* home be-comes dif - frent pla - ces —

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INTENTIONALLY

24 *mf* *dim.*

S1  
S2

come from just one place

*mf* *dim.* , *mp*

A1  
A2

come from just one place, one

*mf*

ped. simile

26 *p* // *poco meno mosso* ♩=68 *mp*

S1  
S2

To feel

*p* // *poco meno mosso* ♩=68

A1  
A2

place.

*dim.* *p* // *poco meno mosso* ♩=68

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29 *mf*

S1  
S2

a - live, to feel im - por - tant and

*mp* *mf*

A1  
A2

To feel a - live, and

*mp* *mp*

31

S1 *p* safe, *mp* know your own *f* wa - ters and hills,

S2 *p* safe, *mp* know your own wa - ters and

A1 *p* safe, *mf* know your own  
A2 *mf* know your own

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34

S1 *mf* know your own *f* wa - ters and hills, *mf* know your own

S2 *f* hills, *mf* know your own *f* wa - ters and hills,

A1 *f* wa - ters and hills, *mf* Tutti A know your own *f* wa - ters and hills,  
A2 *f* wa - ters and hills, *mf* know your own *f* wa - ters and hills,

rit. . . . . A tempo

Unison

37 *f* *f* *f*

S1 wa - ters and hills but know more. You have stars in your

S2 but know more. You have stars in your

A1 *f* *f* *f*

A2 but know more. You have stars in your

rit. . . . . A tempo

40

S1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

S2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

A1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

A2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

for perusal only

40

S1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

S2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

A1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

A2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

40

S1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

S2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have stars in your

A1 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

A2 bones, you have stars in your bones, you have

44 **poco rit.** ♩=66 *p*

S1 bones and o-cceans in blood. *p*

S2 bones and o-cceans in blood. *p*

A1 stars in your bones and o-cceans in blood. *p*

A2 stars in your bones and o-cceans in blood. *p* You have op -

*poco rit.* ♩=66 *mp* *p*

47 *mp*

A1 pos - ing ter-rain in each eye. *mp*

A2 pos - ing ter-rain in each eye. *mp*

*mp* *p*

50 *mf*

S1 You be - long to the land and sky, *mf*

S2 You be - long, You be - long to the

A1 You be - long, you be - long, to the

*mf*

accel. . . . .

53

*mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

S1 You be-long to the land and

S2 land and sky, land and

A1 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

A2 land, and sky, land and

accel. . . . .

for perusal only

56

*all. ff* *Tempo primo*

S1 sky of your first cry,

S2 sky of your first cry,

A1 *ff*

A2 sky of your first cry,

rall. *Tempo primo*

12

59

S *f* you be - long S1 *f* you be - long,

A *f* you be - long S2 *f* You be -

62

S1 *ff* you be-long

A2 you be- long to in - fi - ni - ty

S2 *ff* long, you be - long to in - fi - ni - ty.

A1

*for perusal only*

65

S You be - long. You be - long.

A

Ped.

\*



### JOAN SZYMKO

is widely regarded as a foremost composer of choral music in America today. She has been stirring up the pool of repertoire for women's chorus for over thirty years as

both a composer *and* conductor. Her music has been performed at every National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association since 2003. The ACDA recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as the recipient of the Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. Szymko directs Aurora Chorus, (Portland, Ore) has served on the choral music faculty at Portland State University and as a visiting artist, has workshopped her music with choirs in a variety of settings across the US and in the Netherlands. For more info, visit <[joanszymko.com](http://joanszymko.com)>

### NOTES from the COMPOSER

The opening chords and exuberant opening unison suggests the "big bang"—the singular explosion theorized by astronomers as the origin of our expanding universe. (black note clusters at M.1-6 and at M.64-69 are to be played with forearm and side of hand). The piano *ostinato* that follows beginning at M.7 consists of a 5-note 16th-note pattern over a steady quarter-note 5/4 pulse, lending an unstable, fluctuating quality to the lyrics: "Earth changes..." As the underlying rhythm in the accompaniment settles, the lyrical quality of the setting takes hold, building toward a galvanizing, uplifting expression of "belonging."

This is the third prose poem by Alla Bozarth that I have set. I am drawn to Ms. Bozarth's imagery and to her universal expressions of spirituality.

### ALLA RENÉE BOZARTH

Alla is a Russian, Celtic, Osage American poet, Episcopal priest, Ph.D. in performing arts and Gestalt psychotherapist soul caregiver who lives at the foot of Mt. Hood in Western Oregon. She has published 20 prose and poetry books and 4 audio albums with 14 more large poetry collections, 7 small books and 2 CDs ready for publication. Alla has written award winning poetry for over forty years. Her poems are widely used all over the world, often in collaboration with visual artists, singers and dancers.

### Belonging

The small plot of ground  
on which you were born  
cannot be expected  
to stay forever  
the same.  
Earth changes,  
and home becomes different  
places.  
You took flesh  
from clay  
but the clay  
did not come  
from just one  
place.  
To feel alive,  
important, and safe,  
know your own waters  
and hills, but know  
more.  
You have stars in your bones  
and oceans  
in blood.  
You have opposing  
terrain in each eye  
you belong to the land  
and sky of your first cry,  
you belong to infinity.