

DT0104 | LITTLE YOU, LOOKING UP | TRUMBORE

LITTLE YOU, LOOKING UP

SSAATTBB Chorus

d'aletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

LITTLE YOU, LOOKING UP

Little you, looking up,
fluent in the language of stars
and of sky, lights so fierce and far
and bright, you thought
they must be eternal.

Little you, sleeping under
a glow-in-the-dark map
of your own imagination, under
your grandmother's quilt,
its constellation of stitches.

Little you, unaware
that even stars flare out.

Where did you read it first, or hear it?
an asteroid, hundreds of years from now,
ending life on earth.

Your mother tried to reassure you:
We'll be long gone by then
she said, which only made it worse:
the planet gone, and you, and her.

Little you, no longer eternal,
crying under your grandmother's quilt,
the sky a floor that could swallow
you whole.

Remember: before you were bound
by Earth's petty rotations, you spoke
to the sun in her language of stars.

Fearless you, looking up,
unafraid of change.

Older now, still looking up,
sleeping under your grandmother's quilt
though her own bright sun
faded years ago.

Name your daughters after stars
Tuck them under your grandmother's quilt
So whether they're looking down or up,
they'll see themselves reflected:

Small and fierce and bright.
Meticulous. Unhurried.
Possessing their own
gravity. All time.
All sky. All light.
Almost eternal.

Dale Trumbore

PROGRAM NOTE

Our relationship to the night sky evolves over a lifetime. As children, we may look to the sky as a symbol of something lasting and certain. As we grow older, the stars represent something much more complex: a reminder of how small we are, how insignificant, compared to the vast universe beyond our planet. That disoriented feeling — “the sky a floor that could swallow you whole” — may even lead us to confront our own mortality. Ultimately, *Little You, Looking Up* explores how we live on even after our own bright stars fade: in our children, in our art, or in something as small as a hand-stitched quilt.

This piece was commissioned by the Phoenix Chorale (Christopher Gabbitas, Artistic Director; Nicole Belmont, Executive Director) with generous support from Mary Farrington-Lorch.

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Little You, Looking Up

for SSAATTBB chorus a cappella

Dale Trumbore

Tenderly; speech-like; ♩ = ca. 63 or faster

Musical score for SSAATTBB chorus a cappella. The score is in 4/4 time and includes parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass 1, Bass 2, and Piano. The tempo is marked 'Tenderly; speech-like; ♩ = ca. 63 or faster'. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The lyrics are: 'Lit-tle you, Look-ing up, flu-ent in the lan-guage of stars and of'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mf*, and *mp*. A large blue watermark 'FOR PERFORMERS ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

Little You, Looking Up

2

6

p

S. ah oo

A. ah

T. 1 *f* *p*
 sky, lights so fierce and far and bright you thought they must be e - ter - nal.

T. 2 *f* *p*
 sky, lights so fierce and far and bright must be e - ter - nal.

B. 1 *f* *pp*
 fierce and far and bright ah

B. 2 *f* *p*
 ah, so fierce and far and bright they must be, must be e - ter - nal.

Pno.

12

p *mf* *poco rit.*

S. un - der a map of your own im - ag - i - na - tion,

A. *p* *mf*
 oo un - der a glow in the dark map of your own im - ag - i - na - tion,

T. *p* *mf*
 Lit - tle you, sleep - ing un - der a glow in the dark map oh

B. *p* *mf*
 Lit - tle you, oh

Pno.

Little You, Looking Up

17 **Tempo 1, gently**

S. *p*
un - der your grand-mo-ther's quilt, its con-stel - la-tion of stitch-es.

A. *p*
un - der your grand-mo-ther's quilt, oh oo

T. *p*
oh oo oh

B. *p*
oh oo oh

Pno.

22 *p* *mp* *ff*

S. Lit - tle you, un - a - ware that e - ven stars die out,

A. *pp* *ff*
e - ven stars die out,

T. *pp* *mp* *ff*
Lit - tle you, ah

B. *pp* *ff*
oh ah

Pno.

Little You, Looking Up

4

S. *mf* Lit - tle you un - a - ware that e - ven stars_ flare out. *ff*

A. *mf* Lit - tle you un - a - ware that e - ven stars_ flare out. *ff*

T. *mf* Lit - tle you_ ah *ff*

B. *mf* oo oo_ ah *ff*

Pno. 27

A ♩ = ca. 72 or slightly slower, with rubato

S. *pp* oo oo_ oo oo_

A. *pp* oo_ oo_ oo_ oo_ oo_

T. *pp* oo_ oo_ oo_

B.

Pno. 32

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Little You, Looking Up

6

48

S. 1 *Slow* *p* We'll be long gone

S. 2 *p* We'll be long gone by then,

A. *p* We'll be long gone by then,

T. *p* We'll be long gone by then,

B. *Tutti* *p* tried to re - as - sure you We'll be long gone by then,

Pno.

53

In time; ♩ = ca. 72

S. 1 *pp* oh

S. 2 *p* she said, *pp* oo... oh

A. *p* she said, *pp* oo... oh

T. *p* she said, *pp* oh

B. *Solo* *mp* she said, which on - ly made it worse:

Pno.

Little You, Looking Up

58

S. 1 *mf* the pla-net gone, *p*

S. 2 *mf* oh the pla-net gone, and you *p* her

A. *mf* the pla-net gone, and you *p* her

T. *mf* oh the pla-net gone, and you, *p* her

B. **Tutti** *mf* the pla-net gone, and you, **Solo** *p* and her.

Pno.

64

S. 1 *p* oo oo *pp* oo

S. 2 *p* oo oo *pp* oo

A. *p* oo, oo, oo, *pp* oo

T. *p* oo oo *pp* oo

B. *pp* **Tutti** oo

Pno.

Little You, Looking Up

8

B

69 *mf*

S. Lit-tle you, no long-er e-ter-nal, cry-ing un-der your grand-moth-er's quilt, the sky a floor that could

A. Lit-tle you, no long-er e-ter-nal, cry-ing un-der your grand-moth-er's quilt, the sky a floor that could

T. oo ah ah

B. oo ah ah

Pno.

74 *f* *mf* *rit.* *ff*

S. swal-low you whole. oh ah oh

A. swal-low you whole. oh oh

T. swal-low you whole. oo oh

B. oh oo

Pno.

79 **Slow** *pp* **C** **Tempo 1** *p*

S. oh _____ be - fore you were bound _____ by Earth's

A. *mp* _____ *p* Re mem - ber: _____ *pp* oh, *p* be - fore you were bound by Earth's

T. *p* _____ *p* Re - mem - ber: _____ be - fore _____

B. _____

Pno. _____

86 *mp*

S. pet - ty ro - ta - tions, _____ you spoke to the sun in her lan-guage of

A. pet - ty ro - ta - tions, you spoke to the sun, _____ the sun in her lan-guage of

T. oh _____ oh _____

B. oh _____ oh _____

Pno. _____

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Little You, Looking Up

f *poco rit.* *ff*

S. 1 un - a - fraid of change.

S. 2 ah ah un - a - fraid of change.

A. you ah un - a - fraid of change.

T. ah ah un - a - fraid of change.

B. ah ah un - a - fraid of change.

Pno.

Slow (Tutti) **D** In time; ♩ = ca. 72, with rubato

100 *pp* *p* *mp*

S. 1 un - a - fraid. Old-er now, still look-ing up, sleep-ing un-der your

S. 2 un - a - fraid. Old-er now, still look-ing up, sleep-ing un-der your

A. un - a - fraid. oo sleep-ing un-der your

T. ah oh

B. ah oh

Pno.

Little You, Looking Up

12

105 *pp* *mf* *poco rit.*

S. grand-moth-er's quilt, though her own bright star fad-ed years a - go.

A. grand-moth-er's quilt, though her own bright star fad-ed years years a - go.

T. though her own bright star fad-ed years a - go

B. though her own bright star fad-ed years a - go

Pno.

♩ = ca. 72

109 *p* *mf* *rit.*

S. Old-er you with so much more than as - ter-oids to fear

A. Old-er you oo

T. oo oo

B. oo

Pno.

E Tempo 1, gently

114 *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

S. Tuck your daugh-ters un-der a con - stel-la-tion of stitch-es Name your daugh-ters

A. Tuck your daugh-ters un-der a con - stel-la-tion ah Name your daugh-ters

T. ah ah ah

B. ah ah ah

Pno.

119 *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p*

S. af - ter stars oo

A. af - ter stars oo

T. stars so whe-ther they're looking down or up, they'll

B. stars so whe-ther they're looking down or up, they'll

Pno.

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Little You, Looking Up

135 *ff* *poco rit.* *Slower still; ♩ = ca. 56*

S. light.

A. *ff* *mp* *pp*
light. ah

T. *ff* *mf* *pp*
light. All light. Al - most e -

B. *ff* *mf* *pp*
light. All light. Al - most e -

Pno.

139 *molto rit.*

S. 1 *pp* *mp* *p*
Al-most e - ter - - nal. Look-ing up_ oo

S. 2 *pp* *mp* *p*
Al-most e - ter - - nal. Lit-tle you_ Lit-tle you.

A. *pp* *mp*
Al-most e - ter - nal. Lit-tle you e - ter - nal.

T. *mp*
ter - - - nal. oo e - ter - nal.

B. *mp*
ter - - - nal. oo e - ter - nal.

Pno.