

Ragnarök
SATB div. a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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Timothy C. Takach

Ragnarök

for SATB div. a cappella choir

Commissioned by the Green Box Arts Festival for the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble
and the residents of Green Mountain Falls.



TimothyCTakach.com

Text:

ᚱ *Hagalaz*, ᚲ *Sowilo...* (Runes: wrath of nature, sun...)

Dark grows the sun,
and in summer soon
Come mighty storms:
would you know yet more?

Brothers will fight one another
and kill one another
the world will be a hard place to live in.
skeggold, skalmold, (an age of the axe, an age of the sword,)
vindold, vargold, (an age of storms, an age of wolves,)
Before the world sinks in the sea,
there will be no man left who is true to another.

The old tree sighs
when the giant shakes it—
Yggdrasil still stands,
but it trembles.

Skelfr Yggdrasils
askr standandi.

The sun turns black,
the earth sinks into the sea,
the bright stars
fall out of the sky.
Flames scorch
the leaves of Yggdrasil,
a great bonfire
reaches to the highest clouds.

Here is a house, here is a neighborhood.
Here is a street, a door, a window, a room.
Here is a drought, here a beetled pine.
Here is a wildfire leaping from limb to roof.

There is a law of lightning, law of wood.
There is a need to burn, to lose, to grow.
There is the charred scar, there the flying ash.
To dwell is not to shelter, we should know.

Here are the people packing their cars to flee.
Here are the photos in frames, the pets on leashes.
Here are the children bewildered, coughing smoke.
Here are the firemen climbing the hills in the heat.

ᚷ *Berkana*, ᚳ *Dagaz...* (Runes: growth, day...)

I see the earth
rise a second time
from out of the sea,
green once more.
Waterfalls flow,
and eagles fly overhead,
hunting for fish
among the mountain peaks.

We are the street, we are the neighborhood.
We are the garden living and dying to bloom.
We are the parched yards, we are the trembling deer.
We are the long walk looking to find our home.

I see the earth rise a second time.
Rise.

- *Poetic Edda: Völuspá (41, 46, 55, 57), translated by Dr. Jackson Crawford, sung in English and Old Norse. Used with permission. "The Fires," by David Mason. Used with permission.*

From the composer:

Ragnarök is a story in Norse mythology that is supposed to bring about the end and rebirth of the world. During the battle between Gods and Giants the world tree, Yggdrasil, remains standing, and from it we see new life emerge. There are parallels between the natural disasters in Ragnarök and the 2012 fires in Colorado, and so this ancient text is woven into a contemporary poem about the Waldo Canyon fire that covered 29 square miles near Colorado Springs.

This mixture of ancient and contemporary poetry ties the work together, so we hear both English and Old Norse together in the singing of certain runes from the Elder Futhark (the oldest form of the runic alphabets). These runes foreshadow the drama to come, and musically they provide a textural backdrop against the narrative of the Völuspá text (this is the poem that includes the story of Ragnarök).

The music that accompanies "The Fires" has a resigned tone to it, but it also features a repetitive rising motion that not only represents rising smoke but also a hopeful determined outlook toward the future. At the end of the piece, this motive comes back in a major key, and indeed we hear hope as the earth returns to normal and nature resumes her course.

- *Timothy C. Takach, 2017*

Ragnarök

Timothy C. Takach

Troubled ♩ = 96

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

(for rehearsal only)

Piano

Lyrics:

Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz So - wi - lo...
 Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz So - wi - lo...
 So - wi - lo... Ha - ga - laz
 Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz

Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*, *p*

Rehearsal Marks: 8, 2nd time only

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15 *mf*

S *mf*
So - wi - lo... _____

A *mf*
So - wi - lo... _____ Dark grows the sun and in sum - mer soon

T *mf*
So - wi - lo... _____ Dark grows the sun and in sum - mer soon

B *p*
So - wi - lo... _____ Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga -

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20 *p*

S *p*
So - _____

A *mp*
So - _____

A *f*
Alto 1 *f*
Come might - y storms: _____ would you know yet more? Broth - ers will

T *f*
Come might - y storms: _____ would you know yet more? Broth - ers will

B *mp*
laz Ha - ga - laz So - wi - lo... _____ Ha - ga -

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26

S *mp*
wi - lo... So - wi - lo... Ha - ga - laz

A
ga - laz Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz

A
fight one an - oth - er and kill one an oth - er the world will be a

T
fight one an - oth - er and kill one an - oth - er the world will be a

B
laz Ha - ga - laz Ha - ga - laz

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31

S *mf*
So - wi - lo... skeg - göld, skal - möld, vin - döld,
(skeh - gold skol - mold vin - döld)

A
So - wi - lo...

A *Alto 1 mp*
hard place to live in. Be - fore the world sinks in the sea,

T *mp*
hard place to live in. Be - fore the world sinks in the sea,

B
So - wi - lo... skeg - göld, skal - möld, vin - döld,
(skeh - gold skol - mold vin - döld)

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36

S *mp* *f* *p*
 — var - göld, — no man left who is true to an - oth - er. The
 — vahr - gold) —

A *f* *p*
 there will be no man left who is true to an - oth - er. The

T *f* *p*
 8 there will be no man left who is true to an - oth - er. The

B *f* *p*
 var - göld, skeg - göld, skal - möld, vin - döld, — The
 vahr gold)

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42

S *mf* *p* *rubato*
 old tree sighs when the gi - ant shakes it — Ygg-dra-sil* still

A *mf* *p* *Alto 1*
 old tree sighs when the gi - ant shakes it — Ygg-dra-sil* still

A *mf* *p*
 old tree sighs when the gi - ant shakes it — Ygg-dra-sil* still

T *mf* *p*
 8 old tree sighs when the gi - ant shakes it —

B *mf* *p*
 old tree sighs when the gi - ant shakes it —

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*Ig-drah-sil, with a flipped "r."

47

S stands, but it trem - bles.

A stands, but it trem - bles.

A stands, but it trem - bles.

T *pp* Skel - fr Ygg - dra - sils as - kr stan - dan -
(skell - fær ig - drah - sills ah - skær stahn - dahn)

B *pp* Skel - fr Ygg - dra - sils as - kr stan - dan -
(skell - fær ig - drah - sills ah - skær stahn - dahn)

pp

52

Fiery = 138

S *p* Ah... The sun turns black, the earth *legato*

A *p* Ah... The sun turns black, the earth *legato*

T *p* Ah... The sun turns black, the earth *legato*
start gliss right away

B *p* Ah... The sun turns black, the earth *legato*
start gliss right away

di. dec)

59

S sinks in - to the sea, fall, *mf* fall, *f*

A sinks in - to the sea, fall, *mp*

T sinks in - to the sea, the bright stars fall out of the sky. — Flames *mf*

B sinks in - to the sea, the bright stars fall out of the sky. — Flames *mf*

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63

S *f* fall, *mf* *f* Ah

A *mf* fall, a great bon-fire reach-es

T *f* scorch the leaves of Ygg-dra-sil, a great bon-fire reach-es

B *f* scorch the leaves of Ygg-dra-sil, a great bon-fire reach-es

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molto rit. -----

69 *ff*

S Ah...

A to the high-est clouds. *ff* Ah...

T to the high-est clouds. *ff* Ah...

B to the high-est clouds. *f* Ah...

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74 *p* *p* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

S Ke - naz Here is a house,

A Here is a house,

T Ke - naz Here is a house,

B Ke - naz Here is a house,

Ke - naz

Quiet, Introspective

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80

S *mp*
Ke - naz *Ah...*

A
 here is a neigh-bor-hood. Here is a street, a door, a room, a win-dow.

T
 here is a neigh-bor-hood. Here is a street, a door, a room, a win-dow.

B *mp*
Ke - naz *Ah...*

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84

S *p*
Ke - naz *Ah...*

A
 Here is a drought, here a bee-tled pine. Here is a wild - fire leap-ing from limb to roof.

T
 Here is a drought, here a bee-tled pine. Here is a wild - fire leap-ing from limb to roof.

B *p* Unis.
Ke - naz *Ke - naz* *Ah...*

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88 *mf*

S There is a law of light - ning, law of wood. There is a need to burn, —

A *mf* There is a law of light - ning, law of wood. There is a need to burn, —

T *mf* There is a law of light - ning, law of wood. There is a need to burn, —

B *mf* There is a law of light - ning, law of wood. There is a need, a need to burn, —

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91 *mp* ♩ = 60

S — to lose, to grow. There is the charred scar, there the fly - ing ash. To

A *mp* — to lose, to grow. There is the charred scar, there the fly - ing ash. To

T *mp* — to lose, to grow. There is the charred scar, there the fly - ing ash. To

B *mp* — to lose, to grow.

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♩ = 69

94 *p*

S dwell is not to shel - ter, we should know. Here are the peo-ple

A dwell is not to shel - ter, we should know. Here are the peo-ple

T dwell is not to shel - ter, we should know. Here are the peo-ple

B To dwell is not to shel - ter, we should Ke - naz

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99 *mp*

S pack-ing their cars to flee. Here are the pho-tos in frames, the pets on leash-es.

A pack-ing their cars to flee. Here are the pho-tos in frames, the pets on leash-es.

T pack-ing their cars to flee. Here are the pho-tos in frames, the pets on leash-es.

B Ke - naz

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102 *mf*

S Ah... Here are the chil - dren be - wil - dered, cough - ing smoke.

A Here are the chil - dren be - wil - dered, cough - ing smoke.

T Here are the chil - dren be - wil - dered, cough - ing smoke.

B Ah... Here are the chil - dren be - wil - dered, cough - ing smoke.

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105 *f* *ff* $\text{♩} = 76$

S Here are the fire - men climb-ing the hills in heat. *ff* *f* Da - gaz

A Here are the fire - men climb-ing the hills in heat. *ff* *f* Ber - ka - na

T Here are the fire - men climb-ing the hills in heat. *ff* *f* Ber - ka - na

B Here are the fire - men climb-ing the hills in heat. *ff* *f* Ber - ka - na

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109 *f*

S *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na*

A *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Da - gaz*

T *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz*

B *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz*

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114

S *So - wi - lo* I see the earth rise a sec-ond time from out of the

A *So - wi - lo* I see the earth rise a sec-ond time from out of the *mf*

A *So - wi - lo* *Da - gaz* *Ber-ka - na*

T *So - wi - lo* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz*

B *So - wi - lo* *Ber-ka - na* *Da - gaz*

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118

S sea, green once more. Wa-ter-falls flow, and ea-gles fly

A sea, green once more. Wa-ter-falls flow, and ea-gles fly

A Da - gaz Ber - ka - na and ea-gles fly

T Ber - ka - na Da - gaz Ber - ka - na

B Ber - ka - na Da - gaz Ber - ka - na

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121

S o - ver - head, hunt-ing for fish a - mong the moun-tain peaks.

A o - ver - head, hunt-ing for fish a - mong the moun-tain peaks.

A o - ver - head, hunt-ing for fish a - mong the moun-tain peaks.

T Da - gaz fish a - mong the moun-tain peaks.

B Da - gaz fish a - mong the moun-tain peaks.

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124

S We are the street, we are the neigh - bor - hood. We are the gar - den We are

A We are the street, we are the neigh - bor - hood. We are the gar - den

T We are the street, we are the neigh - bor - hood. We are the gar - den We are

B We are the street, we are the neigh - bor - hood. We are the gar - den

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127

mf

rit.

S liv - ing and dy - ing to bloom. We are liv - ing and dy - ing to

A liv - ing and dy - ing liv - ing and dy - ing liv - ing and dy - ing to

T liv - ing liv - ing and dy - ing liv - ing and dy - ing to

B We are liv - ing and dy - ing to

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a tempo

130 *f*

S bloom. _____ We are the parched yards, we are the trem - bling deer.

A bloom. _____ We are the parched yards, we are the trem - bling deer.

T bloom. _____ We are the parched yards, we are the trem - bling deer.

B bloom. _____ We are the parched yards, we are the trem - bling deer. —

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accel.

Reborn ♩ = 96

133 *mf*

S We are the long walk look - ing to find our home. _____

A We are the long walk look - ing to find our home. _____

T We are the long walk look - ing to find our home. _____

B We are the long walk look - ing to find our home. _____

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137 *f*

S I see the earth rise a sec - ond time.

A I see the earth rise a sec ond time.

T I see the earth rise a sec - ond time.

B I see the earth rise a sec - ond time.

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142 *mf*

S I see the earth rise a sec - ond time. Rise, _____

A *mp* Rise, _____ *mf* rise, _____ *mf* rise, _____

T I see the earth rise a sec - ond time. Rise, _____

B *mp* Rise, _____ *mp* rise, _____ *mf* rise, _____

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147

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *mp*

B *mp*

rise, rise. rise. rise.

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Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
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
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
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
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)		SSAA a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
Twenty Questions		2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTTB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
Kin		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTTB a cappella
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella

Large Works

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano

