

The Footsteps of the Gardener
GP - S005
SAB, piano

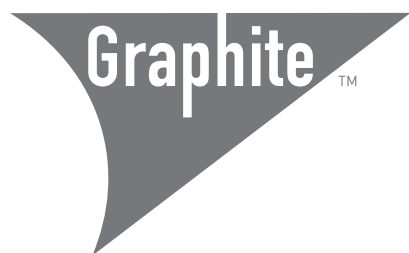
Joshua Shank

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Joshua Shank

The Footsteps of the Gardener

for SAB choir and piano



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From the Composer:

The first job I took after finishing my undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education was as a high school choir teacher but, to date, the only grade I've never taught ranging from kindergarteners to graduate students is seventh (though I've conducted some very talented seventh graders in honor choirs over the years!). This is to say that, as a composer who is sometimes commissioned to write something that will be presented by an ensemble sponsored by an educational institution, I tend to fall back on how my music might be used to teach concepts both musical and non-musical.

"The Footsteps of the Gardener" was the first time I decided to actively knit this notion into the piece in an unsubtle way so, in a nod to educational concepts like the Theory of Multiple Intelligences or Neil Fleming's work on learning styles as well as the music of American composer, Michael Torke, I decided to have the musical material "work out" the short Chinese proverb in a few different ways I found interesting and exciting to perform. I could list all the methods I used, but I think it might fit more with the spirit of the work's composition to see if the singers can figure them out themselves!

- Joshua Shank, 2018

Text:

The best fertilizer is the footsteps of the gardener.

- *Chinese Proverb*

Performance notes:

For clarity's sake, the pedal markings only include the times when the sostenuto pedal should be depressed. Only take a breath where marked by a rest or breath mark.

Commissioned by the South Saint Paul High School Concert Choir
Chad Lindblom, Conductor
The Footsteps of the Gardener

for SAB choir and piano

Chinese Proverb

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Joshua Shank

Never letting up ♩ = c 150

Soprano

Alto

Baritone

Piano

mf

mp

8va

Reo.

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6 *mf*

S The best

A *mf*

B *mf*

The best

Pno. 6 (8va)

notable. elevated.

11

S fer - ti - li - zer is the

A fer - ti - li - zer is the foot

B fer - ti - li - zer is the foot

Pno. 11 (8va)

notable. elevated.

16

S

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

A

steps of the gard - 'ner.

B

steps of the gard - 'ner.

16 (8va)

Pno.

notable. elevated.

21

S

A

B

Pno.

25

mf

mf

mf

the the best fer - ti -

the the best fer - ti -

the the best fer - ti -

Graphite

notable, elevated.

Dec.

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26

S li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

A li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

B li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

Pno.

26

Graphite notable. elevated.

Reo.

33

mf

S foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the

A foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps

B foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best fer - ti -

Pno.

31

Graphite notable. elevated.

mf

Reo.

36

S
gard - 'ner. best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot-steps of the gard - 'ner. The fer - ti -

A
of the gard - 'ner. The fer - ti - li - zer, The best fer-ti - li - zer is the

B
li - zer is the foot-steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best fer-ti - li - zer is the

Pno.

41

S
li - zer is the foot-steps the gard - 'ner. The best

A
foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best

B
foot-steps of the gard - 'ner. The best

Pno.

46

47

S

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps

A

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot steps

B

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps

Pno.

8va

Red.

52

S

of the gard - ner.

A

of the gard - ner.

B

of the gard - ner.

Pno.

8va

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

60

mf

S the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

mf

A the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

mf

B the the best fer - ti - li - zer is the

Pno.

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62

S foot - steps of the gard - ener the the best best fer - fer - ti ti li li zer zer

A foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best best fer - fer - ti ti li li zer zer

B foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. the the best best fer - fer - ti ti li li zer zer

Pno.

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67

S

is is the the foot foot steps steps of of the the gard gard 'ner 'ner. ____

A

is is the the foot foot steps steps of of the the gard gard 'ner 'ner. ____

B

is is the the foot foot steps steps of of the the gard gard 'ner 'ner. ____

Pno.

67

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

74

mf

S

the gard - 'ner. ____ of the gard - 'ner. ____

mf

A

the gard - 'ner. ____ of the gard - 'ner. ____

mf

B

the gard - 'ner. ____ of the gard - 'ner. ____

73

Pno.

mp

Reo.

TM

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78

S

steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ the

A

steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ the

B

steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ the

Pno.

78

Reo.

Reo.

83

S

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ is _____ the foot - steps of the gard -

A

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ is _____ the foot - steps of the gard -

B

foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. _____ is _____ the foot - steps of the gard -

Pno.

83

Reo.

TM

87

S

- 'ner. zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

A

- 'ner. zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

B

- 'ner. zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

Pno.

87

Red.

91

S

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. ti -

A

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. ti -

B

li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. ti -

Pno.

91

94

mf

mf

mf

mf

Red.

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95

S li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. fer - ti -

A li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. fer - ti -

B li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. fer - ti -

Pno.

95

Reo.

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99

S li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. best fer - ti -

A li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. best fer - ti -

B li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. best fer - ti -

Pno.

99

Reo.

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103

S li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best fer - ti -

A li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best fer - ti -

B li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The best fer - ti -

Pno.

103

Rev.

107

S li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The the best fer - ti -

A li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The the best fer - ti -

B li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. The the best fer - ti -

Pno.

107

Rev.

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S
li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

A
li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

B
li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

Pno.

111

Reo.

Reo.

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[illegible]

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120

S

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps — of

A

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps — of

B

fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps — of

Pno.

120

(8va)

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

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125

S

the gard - ner.

A

the gard - ner.

B

the gard - ner.

Pno.

125

(8va)

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Graphite

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130

f

S The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the

f

A The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the

f

B The best fer - ti - li - zer is — the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner. — the

Pno. *f*

134

ff

S gard - 'ner. —

ff

A gard - 'ner. —

ff

B gard - 'ner. — bring out

Pno. *ff*

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S

A

B

Pno.

137

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S

A

B

Pno.

140

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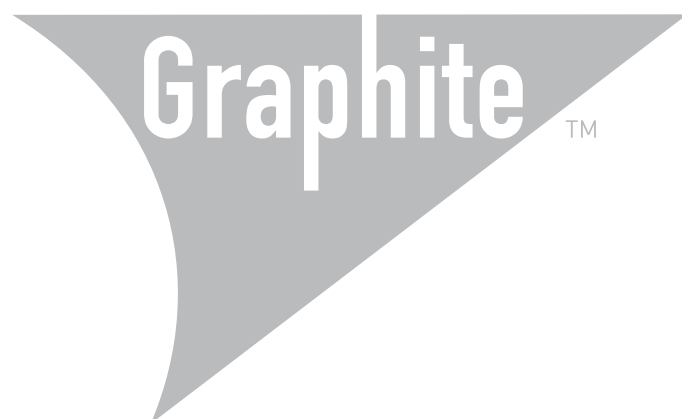
The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

The best fer - ti - li - zer is the foot - steps of the gard - 'ner.

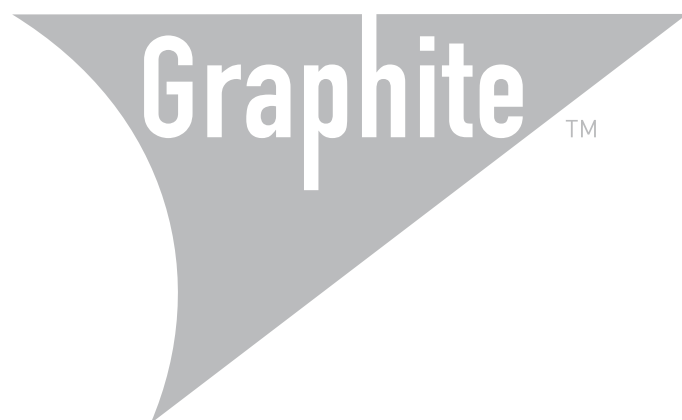
ff

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Joshua Shank



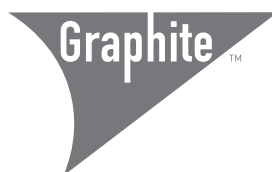
Joshua Shank (b. 1980) has been commissioned by organizations such as the Lorelei Ensemble, the Choral Project, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Association for Music in International Schools. From 2004-2014, he served as Composers-In-Residence for the Minneapolis-based professional choir, The Singers, where he collaborated annually to expand and invigorate the repertoire for professional-caliber ensembles through innovative programming as well as new works written specifically for the ensemble. In 2002, he became the youngest recipient ever of the Raymond W. Brock Composition Award from the American Choral Directors Association. A native of Minnesota, his music was recently featured in a documentary about the extensive choral tradition in the upper Midwest, *Never Stop Singing*, and his published works have sold over 150,000 copies worldwide.

Joshua received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from Luther College where he studied conducting with Weston Noble. He has also earned master's and doctoral degrees in Musicology and Composition from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied with Donald Grantham and the late opera composer Daniel Catán. A fierce advocate for students' access to music education, he served as a public-school teacher in Minneapolis/St. Paul for many years before going on to teach at

Gonzaga University, Valley City State University, and Eastern Washington University. When he's not writing music, you can probably find him biking, studying vegetarian cooking, or watching hilariously bad movies.

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Timothy C. Takach	GP-T010	Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	SSATBB, a cappella
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