

Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)
SSAATTBB, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)

for SSAATTBB a cappella choir

Commissioned by the Rhodes Singers of Rhodes College, Dr. William Skoog, Director.
Funded in part by Jerry C. Alexander, in honor of his daughter, Mackenzie Alexander.



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Text:

Su Rahva Koda

[su rahva koda]

Kui tume veel kauaks ka sinu maa
[kui tume vɛ:l kauaks ka sinu ma:]

Though your country be dark for a long time

Tule, öö pimedus,
[tulɛ ø: pimedus]

Come, night's darkness,

võta mind sülle!
[võta mind syl:ɛ]

gather me to your lap!

Minu päike ei tunne mind,
[minu pæikɛ ei tun:ɛ mind]

My sun doesn't recognize me,

öö jäänd mulle.
[ø: jæ:nd mɔl:ɛ]

the night is left to me.

Ainust tähte sääl pole,
[ainust tæhtɛ sæ:l polɛ]

There's not a single star,

minul on kole.
[minul on kolɛ]

I am in fear.

Varja mu üle.
[varja mu ylɛ]

Cover me.

Kui tume veel kauaks ka sinu maa,
[kui tume vɛ:l kauaks ka sinu ma:]

Though your country be dark for a long time,

Täht süttib ehk taevas su üle veel.

[tæht syt:ib ehk tævas su ylɛ vɛ:l]

Still a star may glitter in the sky above you.

Though your country be dark for a long time
and your burden heavy to bear,
though you never reach,
never reach the blue shore of your desires.

Still a star may glitter in the sky above you,
still a flower may blossom over your grave,
and your thought and your mind
one day pulse from the breast of your kindred

and move and create and spread
and lay beautiful roads;
it will build the house of your kindred
and echo from one generation to the next.

- sung in Estonian and English

- from "My Psalm" and "Though Your Country Be Dark For a Long Time" by Juhan Liiv (1864-1913), translated by Jüri Talvet and H. L. Hix. Used with permission.

Program Note:

When Bill Skoog and I were talking about creating a new piece, he was intrigued by my idea to set Estonian poetry in the original language. When I read Jüri Talvet's translations of Juhan Liiv's work, I encountered a problem. The translations were so beautiful that I didn't want to rob people of hearing them. I felt the meaning would be lost to non-Estonian audiences if the piece were just sung in Estonian. So I came to a compromise: I combined two of Liiv's poems in this piece and set the first in Estonian, the second in English, and a few phrases in both languages.

The poems certainly come from Liiv's experience with Estonia's cultural independence from the Russian Empire in the 19th century, but I feel that they can be read more metaphorically too, making them more of a personal journey.

Singing in Estonian

I've sung in Estonian many times, and have a good understanding of the pronunciation of sung Estonian. Still, I was lucky to work with Kalju Kubits, an Estonian living in Minneapolis. He was able to help me even further understand the vowels and stress of these words.

Diphthongs should be split in half on the sustained note, with the singer spending equal time (when possible) on each. I've noted these instances in the score.

Also, an "h" (as in "rahva," "tähte," "täht," and "ehk") should be articulated as a small puff of air, like the beginning sound of the English word "here."

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Su Rahva Koda

(The House of Your Kindred)

for SSAATTBB a cappella choir

Juhan Liiv
trans. Jüri Talvet and H. L. Hix

Timothy C. Takach

$\text{♩} = 53$ $\text{♩} = 112$ *pp* *p* *p* *p*

Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor 1
Tenor 2
Bass 1
Bass 2

Tu-le, õõ pi-me-dus. —
*Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa
Tu - le, õõ pi-me-dus,
*Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa Tu - le, õõ pi-me-dus,
Tu - le, õõ pi-me-dus,
Tu - le, õõ pi-me-dus,

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* Split the diphthong of "kui" in half. Sing "ku-" for a quarter note and "-i" for one.



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7

mp *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

T 1
võ - ta mind *sül - le! Mi - nu *päi-ke ei *tun - ne mind, öö jäänd

T 2
võ - ta mind *sül - le! Mi - nu *päi-ke ei *tun - ne mind, öö jäänd

B 1
võ - ta mind *sül - le! Mi - nu *päi-ke ei *tun - ne mind, öö jäänd

B 2
võ - ta mind *sül - le! Mi - nu *päi-ke ei *tun - ne mind, öö jäänd

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13

mp *mf* *a tempo* *p*

T 1
*mul - le. Ai - nust täh - te sää - po - le, mi-nul on ko-le. Var - ja mu

T 2
*mul - le. Ai - nust täh - te sää - po - le, mi-nul on ko-le. Var - ja mu

B 1
*mul - le. Ai - nust täh - te sää - po - le, mi-nul on ko-le. Var - ja mu

B 2
*mul - le. Ai - nust täh - te sää - po - le, mi-nul on ko-le. Var - ja mu

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* When singing Estonian, spend time on the double consonants.

For "sülle," sing "sü" for a half note, then "ll" for a quarter note.

On the word "päike," sing each vowel of the diphthong on eighth notes. It turns into a three-syllable word: "pä-i-ke". The same goes for "ei" and "Ainust."

For "tunne," sing a voiced "n" for the second quarter of the measure.

For "mulle," sing "mu" for a quarter note then "ll" for a quarter note.

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19 ♩ = 72

mp

S 1 Kui tu - me veel kau - aks

p mp p

S 2 Ah...

mp mf mp mf

A 1 Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa

mp mf mp

A 2 Täht sü - tib ehk *tae - vas su ü - le veel, Täht sü - tib ehk

19 *ppp*

T 1 ü - le.

ppp

T 2 ü - le.

ppp

B 1 ü - le.

ppp

B 2 ü - le.

* Split the diphthong of "tae" in half. Sing "ta" for one beat, and "e" for one.

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(a few singers)

24 *mf* (Süt - tib) *p* *mp*

S 1 ka si - nu maa Kui tu - me veel

S 2 *mf* *p* *mp* *p*
(Süt - tib) Ah...

A 1 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa

A 2 *mf* *mp* *mf*
tae - vas su ü - le veel, Täht süt - tib ehk tae - vas su ü - le veel,

29 *mf* (Süt - tib)

S 1 kau - aks ka si - nu

S 2 *p* *mp* *mf* *p*
Ah... (Süt - tib) Ah...

A 1 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa

A 2 *mp* *mf*
Täht süt - tib ehk tae - vas su ü - le veel,

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33 *pp* *p* *mp* (a few singers) (Süt - tib)

S 1 maa Kui tu - me veel

S 2 *mf* Though your coun - try be dark, be dark for a long time and your

A 1 *p* *mp* Kui tu-meveel kau-aks ka si-nu maa (Süt - tib)

A 2 *mf* Though your coun - try be dark, be dark for a long time and your

33 *pp* *mp* *p*

T 1 Oo... Oo...

T 2 *mf* Timothy C Takach.com Though your coun - try be dark, be dark for a long time and your

B 1 *pp* *mp* Oo... Oo...

B 2 *pp* *mp* *p* Oo... Oo...

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38

S 1 kau - aks ka si - nu maa Oo...

S 2 bur - den heav-y to bear, your bur-den heav-y to bear, though

A 1 Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa Kui tu-me veel kau-aks ka si-nu maa

A 2 bur - den heav-y to bear, your bur-den heav-y to bear, though

T 1 Oo...

T 2 bur - den heav-y to bear, your bur - den heav-y to bear, though

B 1 Oo...

B 2 Oo...

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44 *p* *mf* *mp* *molto rit.*-----

S 1 *p* *mf* *mp* *p*
nev - er reach, Oh...
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

A 1 *mf* *mp* *p*
nev-er reach, — Oh...
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

A 2 *mp* *p*
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

44 *p* *mp* *p*
T 1 Oo... your de - sires. Still —
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

T 2 *mp* *p*
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

B 1 *p* *mp* *p*
Oo... Still —
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

B 2 *p* *mp* *p*
Oo... Still —
— you nev-er reach, — nev - er reach the blue shore of your de - sires.

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49 *allargando* *p* *mf* = 58 (full section)

S 1 Still a star may glit-ter in the sky (Süt - tib)

S 2 Still a star may glit-ter in the sky a - bove you, _____ still a

A 1 *mf* *Eh... Eh... Eh... (Süt - tib) Eh... Eh...

A 2 *p* *mf* Still a star may glit-ter in the sky a - bove you, _____ still a

T 1 *mf* _____ star may glit-ter in the sky a - bove you, _____ still a

T 2 *mf* *Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

B 1 *mf* _____ a star _____ may glit - ter a - bove you, _____

B 2 *p* *mf* Still _____ a star _____ may glit - ter a - bove you, _____

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* "Eh" should be sung as an open e vowel. Each eighth note is sung for full duration while still honoring the written accents and stresses of the downbeats.

54

mp

S 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and your thought and your mind one day

mp

S 2 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, — and your thought and your mind one day

p

A 1 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, — Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

mp

A 2 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, — and your thought — and your mind one day

54

p

T 1 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

p

T 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

p

B 1 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... — Eh... Eh...

mp

B 2 flower may blos-som o-ver your grave, — Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

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59 *mp*

S 1 pulse and your thought and your mind one² day pulse _____

S 2 pulse Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

A 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... and your thought and your mind one day pulse

A 2 pulse and your thought and your mind one day pulse _____

59 *mp*

T 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

T 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

B 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

B 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh...

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64 *mp* *mf*

S 1 one day pulse from the breast of your kin - dred and move and cre-

S 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and move

A 1 *mp* *mf* one day pulse from the breast of your kin - dred and move and cre-

A 2 *mp* *mf* one day pulse from the breast of your kin - dred and move and cre-ate and

64 *mf*

T 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and move

T 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and move and cre-

B 1 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and move and cre-ate and

B 2 Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... Eh... and move and cre-

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69

S 1
ate _____ and spread _____ and move, cre-ate spread _____ and lay _____

S 2
and _____ cre - ate cre - ate and lay *f* beau - ti - ful

A 1
ate _____ and spread _____ and move, cre-ate spread _____ and lay _____

A 2
spread and lay beau - ti - ful roads; _____ and move and cre-ate and spread and lay

69

T 1
and _____ cre - ate and move and cre - ate and spread and move, *f* beau - ti - ful

T 2
ate _____ and spread _____ and move, cre-ate spread _____ and lay _____

B 1
spread and lay beau - ti - ful roads; _____ and move and cre-ate and spread and lay

B 2
ate and spread and cre - ate and spread and move, *f* beau - ti - ful

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74

S 1 *f* beau - ti - ful roads; *mf* move and cre - ate _____ and spread _____ and move, cre-ate

S 2 *f* roads; _____ beau - ti - ful _____ *mf* roads; _____ move and cre - ate cre - ate and

A 1 *f* beau - ti - ful roads; _____ *mf* move and cre - ate _____ and spread _____ and move, cre-ate

A 2 *f* roads; _____ beau - ti - ful _____ *mf* roads; _____ and spread and lay beau-ti - ful roads; _____ and

T 1 74 roads; _____ *f* and

T 2 *f* beau - ti - ful roads; _____ *f* and

B 1 *f* beau - ti - ful roads; _____ *f* cre -

B 2 *f* roads; _____ *f* cre -

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80

S 1 spread _____ and lay _____ beau - ti - ful roads; *ff* it will build the *f*

S 2 lay beau - ti - ful roads; _____ beau - ti - ful roads; *ff* it will build the *f*

A 1 spread _____ and lay _____ beau - ti - ful roads; *ff* Ah... *mf*

A 2 move and cre-ate and spread and lay roads; _____ beau - ti - ful roads; _____ Ah... *mf*

80

T 1 move and cre - ate _____ it will build it will build the *ff* *f*

T 2 move and cre - ate _____ it will build _____ Ah... *ff* *mf*

B 1 ate beau - ti - ful roads; it will build it will build the *ff* *f*

B 2 ate beau - ti - ful roads; _____ it will build it will build the *ff* *f*

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86

S 1 house of your kin - dred it will build the house

S 2 house of your kin - dred it will build the house

A 1 Ah... Ah...

A 2 Ah... Ah... Ah...

86

T 1 house of your kin - dred it will build the house

T 2 Ah... Ah... build the house

B 1 house of your kin - dred it will build the house

B 2 house of your kin - dred it will build the house

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92

S 1

of your kin - dred and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

S 2

of your kin - dred and ech-o and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

A 1

Ah... and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

A 2

Ah... and ech-o and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

92

T 1

of your kin - dred and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

T 2

of your kin - dred and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

B 1

of your kin - dred and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

B 2

of your kin - dred and ech-o from one gen-er - a - tion

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molto rit.

98

S 1 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion

S 2 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion!

A 1 *ff* *fff*
 Ah... To the next gen - er - a - tion!

A 2 *ff* *fff*
 Ah... To the next gen - er - a - tion!

98

T 1 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion! _____

T 2 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion! _____

B 1 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion! _____

B 2 *ff* *fff*
 to the next. To the next gen - er - a - tion! _____

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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. 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, where he graduated with honors. He 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
We Sing of Home (Finlandia)		SATB a cappella

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
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
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

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		TTTBB 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

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

