

Take This Thread

Le fil que je suis

SATB with piano and violin

Duration ca. 6'20"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

Lauren Deat



Full Score

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

For SATB with piano and violin

Take This Thread

*For the choristers of the
"Sing Across Canada" project*

Take this thread, you sang to me, and I resisted;
my voice caught on all that's ragged in our time.

But though the year seems lost, your thread stays
with me: sewn deep into my days, into my mind.

Emporte cette chanson, ta douce voix m'a bercé,
et son sillage toujours nous liera; *

entre nous et autrui, voici un simple fil
pour sillonner la distance vaste et assombrie. **

And if one day this thread should fray and break,
there's something every fearful heart should know.

It's not the rift but how we listened, it's not the hurt
but how we held: this we all will carry if it goes.

[c'est la chanson qui nous liera;
à travers la distance vaste et assombrie.] ***

It's not the rift but how we listened, it's not the hurt
but how we held: this we all will carry when it goes.

Le fil que je suis

*Pour les choristes du project
« Chantons ensemble, Canada »*

Emporte ce fil, tu as chanté pour moi, et j'ai résisté ;
ma voix prise dans la rudesse de notre temps.

Bien que l'année semble perdue, ton fil me suit :
cousu profondément dans mes jours, en mon esprit.

Emporte cette chanson, ta douce voix m'a bercé,
et son sillage toujours nous liera ;

entre nous et autrui, voici un simple fil
pour sillonner la distance vaste et assombrie.

Et si un jour ce fil s'abîme et se défait,
voici ce que tout coeur craintif devrait savoir.

S'il se perd, ce n'est pas la faille, ni la douleur,
mais notre écoute que nous porterons.

[c'est la chanson qui nous liera ;
à travers la distance vaste et assombrie.]

Quand il se perd, ce n'est pas la faille, ni la douleur,
mais notre écoute que nous porterons.

.....

Note: the bracketed text is a brief addition by the
composer and interweaves with the French refrain.

** Take this song, your sweet voice soothed me,
and its wake will bind us together;*

*** between ourselves and others, this simple thread
will travel the vast and darkened distance.*

**** This song will bind us together;
across the vast and darkened distance.*

— Lauren Peat

Remarque : le texte entre crochets est un bref ajout de la
compositrice, et s'entrecroise au refrain français.

Full Score

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

For SATB with piano and violin

Program note

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis is a poignant work that explores the connections or “threads” that hold us together and enable us to support one another, even and especially in times of difficulty. Set to the poetry of Lauren Peat, this bilingual choral work was written during and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but its powerful message — that the strength to carry on lies in our ability to be present with and for each other — extends far beyond any one moment in history.

The text and music for *Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis* were commissioned as part of the “Sing Across Canada” project, a pan-Canadian choral collaboration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Involving the five choirs noted at the top of this page, the work's virtual premiere took place on June 19, 2021.

Note de programme :

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis est une œuvre poignante qui explore les liens ou les « fils » qui nous unissent et nous permettent de nous soutenir les uns les autres, même et surtout lors des moments les plus difficiles. Sur un poème de Lauren Peat, cette œuvre chorale bilingue a été écrite pendant et en écho à la pandémie de COVID-19, mais son message puissant — que la force de continuer réside dans notre capacité à être présents les uns avec les autres — s'étend bien au-delà de n'importe quel moment de l'histoire.

Le texte et la musique de *Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis* ont été commandés dans le cadre du projet « Sing Across Canada », une collaboration chorale pancanadienne en réponse à la pandémie de COVID-19. Impliquant les cinq chœurs notés en haut de cette page, la première virtuelle de l'œuvre a eu lieu le 19 juin 2021.

Note from the composer:

I began writing *Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis* in late 2020, amidst the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns in Canada. Perhaps because of this timing, when I first read Lauren's poem two moments stuck out to me in particular, which became central to my musical setting. The first was the image of a “thread” that is strengthened when held together. This, I decided, could be represented by an expressive solo violin line — beginning at first as an independent “voice” then interweaving and becoming one with the choir. The second moment was the line of text “it's not the rift, but how we listened,” which repeats twice in the final lines of the poem. For me, this evoked the image of someone calling out into a barren space and waiting for a response — perhaps a depiction of the vulnerability that is required when we open ourselves up in order to overcome difficulty and begin healing. I decided to shape the structure of the work around this idea — the first half of the piece depicts the “call” out into the open, the violin solo (at rehearsal letter G) the vulnerable moments of waiting for a response, and the final stanza the long-awaited response and the first glimmers of healing.

Note de la compositrice :

J'ai commencé à écrire "Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis" à la fin de 2020, au milieu de la deuxième vague de la pandémie de COVID-19 au Canada. Peut-être en raison de ce timing, lorsque j'ai lu pour la première fois le poème de Lauren, deux moments m'ont particulièrement marqué, et sont devenus centraux dans mon cadre musical. Le premier était l'image d'un « fil » qui se fortifie lorsqu'il est maintenu ensemble. Cette image, j'ai décidé, pourrait être représentée par une ligne expressive de violon solo — commençant d'abord comme une « voix » indépendante, puis s'entrelaçant et faisant corps avec le chœur. Le deuxième moment était la ligne "ce n'est pas la faille...mais notre écoute que nous porterons", qui se répète deux fois dans les dernières lignes du poème. Pour moi, cette ligne évoquait l'image de quelqu'un qui s'écrie dans un espace aride, et qui attend une réponse — peut-être une représentation de la vulnérabilité qui est requise lorsque nous nous en ouvrons afin de surmonter les difficultés et commencer à guérir. J'ai décidé de façonner la structure de l'œuvre autour de cette idée : la première moitié de la pièce dépeint le cri à l'air libre, le solo de violon (à la lettre de répétition G) les moments vulnérables d'attente d'une réponse, et la finale strophe la réponse tant attendue et les premières lueurs de guérison.

Full Score Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

For SATB with piano and violin

Note from the poet:

When I was approached to write a poem for the Sing Across Canada Project, the coronavirus pandemic had transformed the landscape of choral music as we knew it. Many arts organizations were—and tragically, still are—hanging by a thread, the vital lifeblood of concerts and audiences suspended indefinitely.

The Sing Across Canada Project, as its name suggests, was an attempt to offer a different kind of lifeblood: a piece of choral music that would virtually crisscross the country, through the almighty power of video conferencing. And so I began to think more about that hanging thread; about what it might mean to nurture it, to embolden and praise it—to find improbable ways of strengthening the bonds between us, even and especially in the darkest of times.

Note du poète:

Lorsque j'ai été approchée pour écrire un poème pour le projet Chantons ensemble, Canada, la pandémie de coronavirus avait transformé le paysage de la musique chorale tel que nous le connaissions. De nombreuses organisations artistiques ne tenaient—et tragiquement, ne tiennent toujours—qu'à un fil, l'élément vital des concerts et des spectateurs suspendu indéfiniment.

Le projet Sing Across Canada, comme son nom l'indique, était une tentative d'offrir un autre type de vitalité: une pièce de musique chorale qui sillonnerait virtuellement le pays, grâce à la force toute-puissante de la vidéoconférence. Et donc j'ai commencé à penser davantage à ce fil; sur ce que cela pourrait signifier de le nourrir, de l'enhardir et de le louer—pour trouver des moyens improbables de fortifier les liens entre nous, même et surtout lors des moments les plus sombres.

About the Creators

Katerina Gimon's uniquely dynamic, poignant, and eclectic compositional style is rapidly earning her a reputation as a distinctive voice in contemporary Canadian choral composition and beyond. Her music has been described as "sheer radiance" (Campbell River Mirror), "imbued...with human emotion" (San Diego Story), and capable of taking listeners on a "fascinating journey of textural discovery" (Ludwig Van). Her works draw inspiration from a myriad of places — from the Ukrainian folk music of her heritage to indie rock, as well as from her roots as a songwriter. Katerina's compositions have been performed widely across Canada, the United States, and internationally. She is currently the composer-in-residence for women's vocal ensemble Myriad and is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. www.katerinagimon.com

Lauren Peat is a writer, lyricist, and educator. Her poems, translations, and interviews have appeared in *Asymptote*, *The Puritan*, *AGNI*, *Volume*, and elsewhere; her writing is also featured in the repertoire of acclaimed vocal ensembles across Canada. She has led writing workshops at a number of universities, including Boston University and the University of Toronto, and currently teaches language arts in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. www.laurenpeatwrites.com

When printing scores please consider the environment: choose recycled or FSC certified paper 

Full Score

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

For SATB with piano and violin

Lauren Peat

Katerina Gimon

Tenderly ♩ = 60

The musical score is written for Violin, SATB choir, and Piano. The first system (measures 1-4) is in 4/4 time, marked 'Tenderly' with a tempo of ♩ = 60. The Violin part begins with a melodic line starting on a whole rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a *p espress.* marking. The SATB choir parts (SA and TB) are currently silent. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes in both hands, marked with a *p*. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Full Score' is overlaid across the middle of the page. The second system (measures 5-8) begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The Violin part continues with a melodic line, including a triplet of eighth notes and a grace note marked with an asterisk (*). The SATB choir parts remain silent. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment, featuring triplets and grace notes. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at measure 6 and back to 4/4 at measure 8. The third system (measures 9-12) continues the same parts. The Violin part has a triplet of eighth notes at measure 10. The SATB choir parts remain silent. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment, featuring triplets and grace notes. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at measure 10 and back to 4/4 at measure 12.

*All grace notes should be on the beat.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

8 *gliss.* *gliss. Sul G* *molto rit.* *a tempo* **A**

Vln. *n*

SA *molto rit.* *a tempo* ***p***
Take this thread _____ you sang to

TB *molto rit.* *a tempo*

Pno. *molto rit.* *a tempo*

12

Vln. *n*

SA *mp*
me _____ and I re - sis - ted; _____ my voice caught

TB *mp*
my voice caught

Pno.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

15

Vln. *mp*

SA
 — on all that's rag - ged in our time — but though the year seems lost — your thread stays with me:

TB
 — on all that's rag - ged in our time — but though the year seems lost — your thread stays with me:

Pno. *mp*

18

Vln. *p*

SA
 — sewn deep in - to my days, — in - to my mind. —

TB
 — sewn deep in - to my days, — in - to my mind. —

Pno. *p* *mp*

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis'. It features four staves: Violin (Vln.), Soprano (SA), Tenor (TB), and Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 15 and ends at measure 17. The second system starts at measure 18 and ends at measure 20. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and melodic lines. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp) and piano (p).

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

B spiccato

21

Vln. *mp*

SA *mp*
Em - por - te cette chan - son,

TB *mp*
Em - por - te cette chan - son

Pno. *mp*

23

Vln.

SA
ta dou - ce voix m'a ber - cé, et son sil -

TB
ta dou - ce voix m'a ber - cé, et son sil -

Pno.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

26

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

la - ge - tou - jours nous li - e - ra, nous li - e -

la - ge tou - jours nous li - e - ra, nous li - e -

29

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

ra; nous_ et au - trui, _

ra; en - tre nous_ et au - trui, _

*All grace notes should be on the beat.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

31

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

3

voi - ci un sim - ple fil pour sil - lon - ner la dis - tan - ce

3

voi - ci un sim - ple fil pour sil - lon - ner la dis - tan - ce

33

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

cresc.

f *espress.*

f

f

vast' et as - som - bri - e.

vast' et as - som - bri - e.

10

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

This musical score is for the piece "Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis". It is written for Violin (Vln.), Soprano (SA), Tenor (TB), and Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two systems, each containing three measures. The first system begins at measure 36, and the second system begins at measure 39. The time signature is 2/4. The Violin part features a melodic line with a triplet in the third measure of the first system and a long note in the third measure of the second system. The Soprano and Tenor parts are mostly silent, with some rests. The Piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. A large double bar line separates the two systems. A watermark "Penscore" is visible across the score.

36

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

39

Vln.

SA

TB

Pno.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

The score will continue on the following page.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

44

Vln.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

fray and break, there's some - thing ev - 'ry fear - ful heart should

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

46

Vln.

S

know. _____ Ah _____

A

know. _____ It's not the rift _____ but how we list - ened, _____

T

8

know. _____ Ah _____

B

know. _____ It's not the rift _____ but how we list - ened, _____

Pno.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

48

Vln.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

ah

it's not the hurt but how we held: this we all will

ah

it's not the hurt but how we held: this we all will

The musical score is for the piece 'Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis'. It features a Violin (Vln.) part at the top, followed by vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), and a Piano (Pno.) accompaniment at the bottom. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score begins at measure 48. The Soprano part has a long note with the lyric 'ah' and a triplet of eighth notes with the lyrics 'this we all will'. The Alto and Bass parts have the lyrics 'it's not the hurt but how we held: this we all will'. The Piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Piano Score' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

50

Vln.

S

car - ry — if it goes. — en - tre

A

car - ry — if it goes. — en - tre

T

8 car - ry — if it goes. — Em - por - te cette chan - son,

B

car - ry — if it goes. — Em - por - te cette chan - son,

Pno.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

F

Vln.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

nous_ et au-trui, ___

voici un simple fil pour

nous_ et au-trui, ___

voici un simple fil pour

8

Em - por - te cette chan - son ___

c'est la chan - son qui nous li-e-

Em - por - te cette chan - son ___

c'est la chan - son qui nous li-e-

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

54

Vln.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

sil - lon - ner la dis - tan - ce _____ vas - - - -

sil - lon - ner la dis - tan - ce _____ vas - - - -

ra _____ qui nous li - e - ra; _____ à tra - vers la dis -

ra _____ qui nous li - e - ra; _____ à tra - vers la dis -

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

56

Vln.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

te, la dis - tan - ce vast' la dis - tan - ce

te, la dis - tan - ce vast' la dis - tan - ce

tan - - - - ce, la dis - tan - ce

tan - - - - ce, la dis - tan - ce

This page has been intentionally left blank.

The score will continue on the following page.

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

61

Vln.

mp

rit.

S

bri - e. À tra-vers la dis - tan-ce vas - te...

mp *rit.* *p*

A

bri - e. À tra-vers la dis-tan-ce vas - te...

mp *rit.* *p*

T

8 bri'. À tra-vers la dis-tan-ce vas - te...

mp *rit.* *p*

B

bri - e. À tra - vers la dis-tan-ce vas - te...

mp *rit.* *p*

Pno.

mf *mp* *p*

The musical score is for a piece titled "Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis". It features a Violin (Vln.) and Piano (Pno.) accompaniment, and vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The score begins at measure 61. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Violin part starts with a rest, followed by a melodic line marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *rit.* (ritardando). The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "bri - e. À tra-vers la dis - tan-ce vas - te...". The Soprano and Alto parts are marked *mp* and *rit.*, while the Tenor and Bass parts are marked *mp* and *rit.*. The Piano accompaniment starts with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic, followed by a *mp* section and a *p* (piano) section. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, beams, and dynamic markings.

a tempo
very freely, with rubato

It's not the rift

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

H

Score for Vln., SA, TB, and Pno. in 2/4 time.

First System:

- Vln.:** *mp* (6)
- SA:** — but how we list - ened, —
- TB:** *mp* it's not the hurt — but how we held:
- Pno.:** *mp*

Second System (Starting at measure 75):

- Vln.:** *mf* (6), *rit.*, *mp* (3), *a tempo*
- SA:** *cresc.*, *mf rit.*, *mp a tempo*
this we all will car-ry, this we all will car-ry, this we all will
- TB:** *cresc.*, *mf rit.*, *mp a tempo*
this we all will car-ry, this we all will car-ry, this we all will
- Pno.:** *cresc.*, *mf* (3), *rit.*, *a tempo*
r.h. (3), r.h. (3)

Take This Thread / Le fil que je suis

79 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln.

SA *rit.* *a tempo*

car - ry _____ when it goes. _____

TB *rit.* *a tempo*

car - ry _____ when it goes. _____

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo*

83 *molto rit.*

Vln.

SA *molto rit.*

TB *molto rit.*

Pno. *molto rit.*

3 3