

The Frost Myth

SATB choir (with divisi) and opt. percussion

Duration ca. 4'20"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

Alice Williams Brotherton



The Frost Myth

Set to the text of American poet Alice Williams Brotherton, *The Frost Myth* brings to life the Norse story of how our universe was born — from fire and frost. To paint this captivating tale, the music swirls and tumbles through a myriad of exciting textures, from persistent and driving rhythmic figures to powerful Viking-like chant. This is a great work for programs that explore themes like myths and legends, storytelling, winter, as well as the spooky and strange.

The Frost Myth was commissioned by the Canadian Men's Chorus, Artistic Director, Greg Rainville, and premiered on October 26, 2019, at "Wicked Imagination" at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The SSAA voicing was commissioned by Interlochen Arts Academy Chorale and premiered on May 27, 2022, in Interlochen, Michigan, USA.

Text:

Out of Frost and Fire sprang Ymir,
Type of Chaos, long ago;
Mighty Odin slew the giant,
As the Norse-folk know.*

From the rushing blood the ocean
In swift thunderous torrents whirled;
From the ponderous carcass Odin
Carved the Mitgard world,--

Of his hair made waving forests,
Of his skull the vaulted sky,
Moulded from his bones the mountains
Which around us lie.

Lo, today, upon my window
Odin carves on every pane,
(To rebuke my skeptic smiling),
A new world again.

Mountain, forest, plain and river,
Flash upon my raptured sight;
Here is Summer's perfect joyance,
And Spring's dear delight.

Ferny cliff, cascade and grotto,
Glitter on the frosty pane--
Miracle the Norse-folk chanted*
Here is wrought again.

And who shall say the gods have left us,*
Or that Odin's power is lost,
When new Mitgards rise before us
Out of Fire and Frost?

— Alice Williams Brotherton (1848-1930)

** Note: These lines have been adjusted by the composer from the original text.*

Composer Biography



Katerina Gimón is an award-winning Canadian composer uniquely dynamic, poignant, and eclectic compositional style has earned her a reputation as a distinct voice in the landscape of contemporary choral composition. 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 are performed widely across Canada, the United States, and internationally. She is the composer-in-residence for adult treble choir Myriad Ensemble and lives in Metro Vancouver, B.C., Canada. www.katerinagimon.com

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The Frost Myth

Frost and Fire

Alice Williams Brotherton

Katerina Gimon

$\text{♩} = 76$

S *mp* *f*
Out of Frost and Fire _____ sprang

A *p* *light, percussive, and fiery!*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

T

B

Player 1 (A section)
dry wood sound (drum sticks, back of mallets, side of drum, etc.)

Percussion (optional) *p* *cresc.*

7

S *mp* *pp*
Y - mir, _____ Type of Cha-os long a - go, _____

A *p* *airy and percussive whisper*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

T Frost and Fire,

B *p* *airy and percussive whisper* *mp*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc. *mp* *cresc.*

A

13 *mf* *pp* *mf*

S Long a - go; Might-y O - din slew the

A1 *f* *mp*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2 *f* *mp*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and

T *mf* *mf*
Frost and Fire Might-y O - din slew the

B *f* *mf*
Frost and Fire Might-y O - din slew the

Perc. *mf*

19

S gi - ant, As the Norse do know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean In swift thun-der-ous

A1 Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2 Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and

T gi - ant, As the Norse-men know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean In swift thun-der-ous

B gi - ant, As the Norse-men know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean In swift thun-der-ous

Perc.

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25

S
tor-rents whirled; From the pon-der-ous car-cass O - din Carved

A1
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2
Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Out of

T
fire, tor-rents whirled; From the pon-der-ous car-cass O - din Carved,

B
tor-rents whirled; From the pon-der-ous car-cass O - - din

Perc.

30

S
O - - - din Carved, Carved the Mit - gard world,

A1
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2
Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Out of Fire, Frost and

T
O - - - din Carved, Carved the Mit - gard

B
O - - - din Carved O - din

Perc.

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B

35 *mf* *f*

S Carved the Mit - gard world;

A1 Frost and Fire, Out of Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2 Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

T *mf* *f*
8 world; Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

B *mf* *f*
Carved the Mit - gard world; Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc. *cresc.*

39 *fp* *f*

S Ah Frost and Fire,

A1 Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Of his

A2 Frost, Frost and Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Of his

T Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

B Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.

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C

44

Speaker 1 *mf* solo spoken (apprx. rhythm)
From the rush - ing blood the o - cean From the rush - ing

Speaker 2 *mf* solo spoken (apprx. rhythm)
Out of Frost and Fire,

Speaker 3: *solo* spoken (apprx. rhythm)
Frost and Fire

S

A hair made wav - ing for - ests, —

T

B *fp* — *f* on the eighth note, throw voice, as in folk music *fp* — *f*
Hm — ah hm — ah
(morph vowel)

48

Speaker 1 blood the o - cean From the rush - ing blood the o - cean tor-rents whirled Out of

Speaker 2 *mf* solo spoken (apprx. rhythm)
From the rush - ing blood the o - cean tor - rents whirled

Speaker 2 & 3: *f* all singers
Out of

S Out of Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire *mf* Mold - ded

A the vault - ed

T skull the vault - ed sky,

B *fp* — *f* *fp* — *f*
hm — ah hm — ah

join other Speakers

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The score will continue on the following page.

58

Very free (repeat and fragment as you grow to a shout)

tor - rents whirled Out of Frost Out of Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, small upper notes = one (or a few) singers only

S which a - round us lie. *mp*

A sky, the vault - ed sky, *mp*

T which a - round us lie. *fp* *f* *fp*

B hm ah

~ 5 - 8"

gradually move to a whisper, then fade out...

62

Frost and Fire Frost and Fire Frost and Fire Frost and Fire *f* *pp* *(X)

S *f* dim. out high B *(X) dim.

A *f* *(X) dim.

T *f* *(X) dim.

B *f* *(X) dim.

*(X) = repeat as many times as needed until the Speakers have faded "Frost and Fire"

D

♩. = 60

67

f solo or small group

Tenor Solo

Lo, to-day, up - on my win - dow _____ O - din carves on ev - 'ry pane,

mf staggered breathing bright resonant "ah" or optional improvised overtones (a few singers only)

SA

(ah)

mf staggered breathing bright resonant "ah" or optional improvised overtones (a few singers only)

TB

(ah)

74

Tenor Solo

(To re-buke my skep - tic smil - ing), _____ A new world a - gain. _____

SA

TB

E**f** solo or small group

Soprano Solo

Moun - tain, for - est, plain and ri - ver, _____

Tenor Solo

Moun - tain, for - est, plain and ri - ver, _____

SA

TB

*Basses: Individually, enter with the boxed idea (where written or anytime afterward). Sustain for about the length of one breath, then re-enter, and repeat.

>ah

>ah

→ continue repeating until m. 98

* Two quick notes about the aleatoric boxed figure in the Bass (m. 84):

1. The overall textural effect should be that of a sparkly, mysterious, and energized drone.
2. In general, try to avoid re-entering at the same time as your neighbour.
3. To ensure variation in the initial entry, a leader can be assigned to come in on the downbeat of m. 84, as written, or even a few singers to enter in that bar. The remaining choristers should simply hold their "ah" from m. 83, re-entering with the boxed idea once they need to breathe.

88

Soprano Solo

Tenor Solo

SA

TB

Flash u - pon my rap - tured sight; _____ Here is Sum - mer's per - fect joy - ance,

Flash u - pon my rap - tured sight; _____ Here is Sum - mer's per - fect joy - ance,

95

Soprano Solo

Alto Solo 1

Alto Solo 2

Tenor Solo

SA

TB

And Spring's dear de - light. _____ *f* solo or small group

de -

de - light _____ *f* solo or small group

And Spring's dear de - light. _____

Repeat the text individually (pitched, varying tempi and rhythms)

[Frost and Fire]

101

Soprano Solo
de - light de - light

Alto Solo 1
light de - light

Alto Solo 2
de - light

mf *mf* *p*

Repeat the text individually (pitched, varying tempi and rhythms)

SA
[Frost and Fire] Fern - y cliff,

TB
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.
Player 2 (B section)
resonant viking-esque drum (like bodhrán, frame drum, etc.)

p *f* *mf* *mf*

107

Soprano Solo
ah

Alto Solo 1
ah

Alto Solo 2
ah

p *mp* *mp*

SA
cas - cade and grot-to, Glit - ter on the frost-y pane;

TB
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.

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113

Soprano Solo *f* Mir - a - cle *p* de - light

Alto Solo 1 *f* Mir - a - cle *p* de - light

Alto Solo 2 *p* de - light

SA Mir - a - cle the Norse-folk chant - ed Here is wrought

TB Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.

119

SA Solos *mp* a - gain, a - gain, a - gain. *ff* **G** ♩ = 80

SA *subito p* a - gain. *ff*
a - gain, a - gain, a - gain, a - gain. And who shall say the

TB *subito p* Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire. *ff* Say the

Perc. *subito p* *cresc.* *ff*

126 *mf*

SA
gods have left us, _____ Or that O - din's pow'r is lost, _____

TB
gods have left us, _____ Or that O - din's pow'r is lost, _____

133 *subito p* *f* *rit.* *mf*

SA
_____ When new Mit - gards rise be - fore us _____ Out of Fire and

TB
_____ When new Mit - gards rise be - fore us _____ Out of Fire and

8 - 10"

*See note

142 *pp* *mf* *pp*

SA
without measure *individually* *repeat until line ends* *individually*
Frost? Fire and Frost, Frost and Fire?

TB
without measure *pp*
Frost?

*SAs hold "Frost" (m. 142), then enter with the boxed figure individually (on or after the downbeat of m. 143). As you repeat, move from slow and quiet repetitions --> to loud and fast ---> then return to slow and quiet again. Follow the conductor for timing and shape. Move to the final bar on the conductor's cue and hold the final fermata until all have reached the end.