

The Frost Myth

SSAA choir (with divisi)
with opt. percussion and opt. cello

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

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



The Frost Myth

Frost and Fire

Alice Williams Brotherton (1848-1930)

Katerina Gimon

♩ = 76

mp *f*

S1
Out of Frost and Fire _____ sprang

S2

A1
p light, percussive, and fiery!
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2

Percussion (optional)
Player 1 (S2 section)
dry wood sound (drum sticks, back of mallets, side of drum, etc.)
p

Cello (optional)

7

S1
mp *pp*
Y - mir, _____ Type of Cha - os long a - go, _____

S2
p airy and percussive whisper
Frost and Fire,

A1
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,
p airy and percussive whisper *mp*

A2
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.
mp *cresc.*

13 *f* *mf* **A**

S1 Frost and Fire Might-y O-din slew the

S2a *mf* Frost and Fire Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, *mp*

S2b *mf* Long a - go *pp* Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and *mp*

A1 *f* Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Might-y O-din slew the *mf*

A2 *mf* Long a - go; *pp* Might-y O-din slew the *mf*

Perc. *mf*

19

S1 gi - ant, As the Norse-folk know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean In swift thun-der-ous

S2a Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

S2b Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost, Frost and

A1 gi - ant, As the Norse-folk know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean

A2 gi - ant, As the Norse-folk know. From the rush-ing blood the o - cean In swift thun-der-ous

Perc.

25

S1
tor-rents whirled; From the pon-der-ous car-cass O - din Carved

S2a
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

S2b
Fire, Frost, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Out of

A1
tor-rents whirled; O - din Carved,

A2
tor-rents whirled; From the pon-der-ous car-cass O - din

Perc.

30

S1
mf O - din Carved, *f* Carved the Mit - gard world,

S2a
mf Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

S2b
mf Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, *f* Out of Fire, Frost and

A1
O - din Carved, *f* Carved the Mit - gard

A2
O - din Carved O - din

Perc.

The Frost Myth

B

35

mf *f*

S1 Carved the Mit - gard world;

S2a Frost and Fire, Out of Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

S2b Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A1 world; Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

A2 Carved the Mit - gard world; Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc. *cresc.*

Vc. *pp* *f* *simile*

39

fp *f*

S1 Frost and Fire, Of his

S2a Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

S2b Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

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

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

Perc.

Vc.

C

44

Speaker Group

solo spoken (apprx. rhythm)

Musical staff for Speaker Group, showing a series of rhythmic marks (x's) on a treble clef staff.

From the rush-ing blood the o - cean From the rush-ing

mf *solo* spoken (apprx. rhythm)

Musical staff for S1, showing a vocal line with lyrics: hair made wav - ing for - ests, — From the rush - ing blood the o - cean

fp *f* on the eighth note, throw voice, as in folk music *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Musical staff for S2a, showing a vocal line with lyrics: Hm ah (morph vowel) hm ah hm ah

mf *solo* spoken (apprx. rhythm)

Musical staff for S2b, showing a vocal line with lyrics: Out of Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire Out of Frost and Fire,

mf *solo* spoken (apprx. rhythm) *f* all singers

Musical staff for A1, showing a vocal line with lyrics: From the rush - ing blood the o - cean Of his skull the vault-ed

fp *f* on the eighth note, throw voice, as in folk music *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Musical staff for A2, showing a vocal line with lyrics: Hm ah (morph vowel) hm ah hm ah

Vc.

Musical staff for Vc., showing a bass line with lyrics: *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

This page has been intentionally left blank.

The score will continue on the following page.

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

56

Speaker Group

tor-rents whirled Out of Frost and Fire, tor-rents whirled Out of Frost Out of Frost and Fire,

small upper notes = one (or a few) singers only

S1

moun - tains _____ which a - round us lie.

mp

S2a

fp *f* *fp* *f* *fp*

hm _____ ah hm _____ ah ah _____

S2b

sky, the vault - ed sky, the vault - ed sky, _____

mp

A1

fp *f* *fp* *f* *fp*

hm _____ ah hm _____ ah ah _____

A2

from his bones the moun - tains _____ which a - round us lie.

mp

Vc.

fp *f* *fp* *f* *fp*

61 *f* *gradually move to a whisper, then fade out...* *pp* * (X)

Speaker Group
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire Frost and Fire Frost and Fire Frost and Fire

S1 *f* *dim. out high D* * (X)

S2a *f* * (X)

S2b *f* * (X)

A1 *f* * (X)

A2 *f* * (X)

Vc. *f* *free bowing on all sustains until m. 104, moving between sul tasto and sul pont* * (X)

66 **D** ♩ = 60 *f* solo or small group

Solo 2 (Alto)
Lo, to - day, up - on my win - dow O - din carves on

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

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

Vc. *dim.* *mf* *move to tremolo* *slow tremolo*

72

Solo 2

ev - 'ry pane, — (To re-buke my skept - tic smil - ing), —

S

A

Vc.

move to tremolo slow tremolo (to return to sustain) move to tremolo

78

Solo 2

A new world a - gain.

S

A

Vc.

slow tremolo

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

E*f* solo or small group

83

Solo 1 (Sop) Moun - tain, for - est, plain and ri - ver, _____

Solo 2 Moun - tain, for - est, plain and ri - ver, _____

S _____

A *ah* *ah* → continue repeating until m. 98

Vc. move to tremolo → slow tremolo → move to tremolo

88

Solo 1 Flash u - pon my rap - tured sight; _____

Solo 2 Flash u - pon my rap - tured sight; _____

S _____

A _____

Vc. slow tremolo → move to tremolo → slow tremolo

* Two quick notes about the aleatoric boxed figure in the Altos (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.

93

Solo 1
Here is Sum - mer's per - fect joy - ance, _____ And Spring's dear de -

Solo 2
Here is Sum - mer's per - fect joy - ance, _____ And Spring's dear de -

S

A

Vc.
move to tremolo → slow tremolo

98

Solo 1
light. _____ de - light _____

Solo 2
light. _____ de - light _____

Solo 3 (Sop)
de - light _____ de -

S
Repeat the text individually (pitched, varying tempi and rhythms)
[Frost and Fire]

A
Repeat the text individually (pitched, varying tempi and rhythms)
[Frost and Fire]

Vc.
Note: upper D is optional
move to tremolo → slow tremolo

f *f* *mf*

f solo or small group *mf*

The Frost Myth

104

mf **F** *p*

Solo 1
de - light

mf *p* *mp*

Solo 2
de - light ah

p

Solo 3
light

S *p*
Fern - y cliff, cas - cade and grot - to,

A *mf*
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

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

Perc. *mf*

Vc. *(mf)*
ord. free bowing ends

109

mp

Solo 1
ah

Solo 2

mp

Solo 3
ah

S
Glit - ter on the frost - y pane;

A
Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.

Vc.

The Frost Myth

114 *f* *p*

Solo 1
Mir-a-cle de - light

Solo 2
de - light

Solo 3
Mir-a-cle de - light

S1
f Mir-a-cle the Norse-folk chant - ed Here is wrought a -

S2
f Mir-a-cle the Norse-folk chant - ed Here is wrought

A
mf Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire,

Perc.

Vc.

120 *sub. p* *ff* **G** ♩ = 80

S1
gain. And who shall say the

S2
mp a - gain, a - gain, a - gain. *ff* And who shall say the

A
sub. p Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire, Frost and Fire. *ff* Say the

Perc.
sub. p *cresc.* *ff*

Vc.
sub. p *cresc.* *ff*

126 *mf*

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

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

133 *sub. p* *f* *rit. mf*

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

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

8 - 10"

*See note

without measure *pp* *mf* *pp*

142 *individually* *repeat until line ends* *individually*

S Frost? Fire and Frost, Frost and Fire?

A Frost?

Vc. *p* *mf* *pp*

without measure move to tremolo slow tremolo

*Sopranos 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.