

Things Worth Praising  
SATB, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## Things Worth Praising

for a cappella SATB choir

Commissioned for Choral Arts Ensemble by Peggy Menzel and Ed Creagan—  
in memory of our parents, Henry and Helen Menzel and Eddie and Flo Creagan



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## Text:

Rain. Soft rain. Hard pelting rain. Sleet and snow.  
Clouds: white, grey, dark. A spring breeze.  
The predictability of stars and moon and sun.

Green small hills. Craggy slopes. Granite cliffs.  
Topsoil deep and rich. The melody of rivers.  
The power of tides. The cycle of change.

Industry of bee and worm. Sweet fruit that follows.  
Microbes that make cheese. Ones that cure us.  
Profound cooperation that begets lichen.

Birdsong carried on wind. The shadow of a horse  
against a limestone wall. A dog's warmth.  
Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Breath.

A friend's hand, reaching out for help or tea.  
A sigh, a song, an honest smile, a body dancing.  
Everything that connects and is connected. Everything.

- Patricia Monaghan, "Things Worth Praising"  
from *Sanctuary*, used with permission.

## From the Composer:

Sometimes we need reminding of the things in our lives that are worth praising. Some are found at home, some abroad. Some are found within our bodies, some within the earth. I think the power in Patricia's words, though, is that all of these things are connected. If we honor one of them we honor all of them. Our bodies are a part of nature. In writing the music I mostly tried to get out of the way of the words and let them speak for themselves in their simplicity. (But I did look for a little complexity when talking about microbes making cheese - a first for this composer!)

- Timothy C. Takach, 2023



**Patricia Monaghan** was Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at De Paul University, Chicago. Her several Irish related works include, *Irish Spirit: Pagan, Celtic, Christian, Global*, an international collection of essays which she compiled and edited for Wolfhound Press in 2001. Her poetry collection *Dancing With Chaos* (SalmonPoetry, 2002) notably delights in the entanglements of the human and personal in poetry and science.

Patricia was honored with a Pushcart Prize, the Paul Gruchow Nature Writing award, and the Friends of Literature award for poetry. She and her husband, Michael McDermott, founded The Black Earth Institute, a writers & artists think-tank whose current Fellows come from all over North America and Ireland, and she was vice-President of the Association for the Study of Women and Mythology as well as a lecturer for the Women's Theological Institute. Patricia died on November 11, 2012.



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, 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, numerous All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach is a co-creator of the theatrical production *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

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# Things Worth Praising

for SATB a cappella

Patricia Monaghan

Timothy C. Takach

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**Tempo:** ♩ = 72

**Lyrics:** Rain. Soft rain. Hard pelt - ing rain. Sleet and snow. —

**Dynamic markings:** *p*, *mf*, *p*

**Instrumentation:** Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Piano

**Score details:** The score is for SATB a cappella and piano. It features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 72. The lyrics are: "Rain. Soft rain. Hard pelt - ing rain. Sleet and snow. —". Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano part includes a watermark "Timothy C Takach.com".

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6

S *mf* *p*  
Clouds: white, grey, dark. A spring

A *mf* *p*  
Clouds: white, grey, dark. A spring

T *mf* *p*  
Clouds: white, grey, dark. A spring

B *mf* *p*  
Clouds: white, grey, dark. A spring

Pno. *mf* *p*



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10 *mf*  
S breeze. The pre-dict - a - bil - i - ty of stars moon and  
*mf*  
A breeze. of stars and moon and  
*mf*  
T breeze. The pre-dict - a - bil - i - ty of stars and moon and  
*mf*  
B breeze. of of stars and moon and

Pno. *mf*

14 *p* *pp* *p*

S sun. Green small hills. Crag - gy slopes.

A sun. Green small hills. Crag - gy slopes.

T sun. Green small hills. Crag - gy slopes. —

B sun. Crag - gy slopes. —

Pno. *p* *pp* *p*

20 *mp* *mf* *f*

S Gran-ite cliffs. Top - soil deep and rich. The

A Gran-ite cliffs. Top - soil deep and rich. The mel - o - dy of

T Gran-ite cliffs. Top - soil deep and rich. The mel - o - dy of

B Gran-ite cliffs. Top - soil deep and rich. The

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

24

S mel - o - dy of riv - ers. The pow - er of tides. The

A riv - ers. The mel - o - dy and pow - er of tides. The

T riv ers. The mel - o - dy and pow - er of tides. The

B mel - o - dy of riv - ers. The pow - er of tides. The

Pno.

28

S cy - cle of change, of change, of change.

A cy - cle of change, of change, of change, of

T cy - cle of change.

B cy - cle of change. In - dus - try of bee and worm. Sweet fruit that fol - lows.

Pno.

32 *mf* *mp*

S In - dus - try of bee and worm. Sweet fruit that fol - lows. Bee and

A change. *mf* In - dus - try of bee and worm.

T

B *mp* Bee and worm and fruit... Mi - crobes that make

Pno.

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S worm and fruit... Mi - crobes that make

A Sweet fruit that fol - lows. Sweet fruit that

T *mf* In - dus - try of bee and worm.

B cheese. Ones that cure us. Sweet fruit

Pno.

37

S cheese. Pro - found co-op - er - a - tion that be - gets

A fol - lows. Pro - found co-op - er - a - tion that be - gets

T Sweet fruit that fol - lows. Pro - found co-op - er - a - tion that be - gets

B that fol - lows. Pro - found co-op - er - a - tion that be - gets

Pno.

*f* *mf*

40

S li - chen. Bird - song car - ried on wind. The

A li - chen. Bird - song car - ried on wind. The

T li - chen. Bird - song car - ried on wind. The

B li - chen. The

Pno.

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43

S shad-ow of a horse a - gainst a lime-stone wall. A

A shad-ow of a horse a - gainst a lime-stone wall. A

T shad-ow of a horse a - gainst a lime-stone wall. A

B shad-ow of a horse a - gainst a lime-stone wall. A

Pno.

46 *p* = 66

S dog's warmth.

A dog's warmth. Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Breath.

T dog's warmth.

B dog's warmth. Blood. Bones. Breath.

Pno. *p* = 66

50 *mf*

S A T B Pno.

Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Breath. Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Blood. Bones. Breath. Blood. Bones.

A friend's hand,

Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Breath. Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts.

Blood. Bones. Breath. Blood. Bones.

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S A T B Pno.

reaching out for help or tea. A sigh, a song, an hon-est

Breath. Blood. Flesh. Bones. Hearts. Breath. Breath. Blood. Bones. Breath.

Breath. Blood. Bones. Breath.



62

S Eve - ry - thing that con - nects and is con - nect - ed.

A Eve - ry - thing that con - nects and is con - nect ed. Eve - ry -

T thing that con - nects and is con - nect - ed.

B Eve - ry - thing that con - nects and is con - nect - ed.

Pno.

*mf* *f* *f*

65

S Eve - ry - thing. Blood. Bones. Breath.

A thing. Flesh. Hearts. Breath.

T Eve - ry - thing. Flesh. Hearts. Breath.

B Eve - ry - thing. Blood. Bones. Breath.

Pno.

*rit.* *p* *p* *p*