

To Risk Your Heart
SATB div. a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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To Risk Your Heart

for SATB div. a cappella choir

Commissioned by VocalEssence in honor of their 45th anniversary season



Timothy C Takach.com

Text:

Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning. You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth. You are here to risk your heart. You are here to be swallowed up. And when it happens that you are broken, or betrayed, or left, or hurt, or death brushes near, let yourself sit by an apple tree and listen to the apples falling all around you in heaps, wasting their sweetness. Tell yourself you tasted as many as you could.

- *Louise Erdrich, from The Painted Drum*

From the Composer:

This text comes from Louise Erdrich's novel *The Painted Drum* and is a beautiful fit for vocal music. What struck me immediately about these words is that it conveys a holistic approach to personal spirituality and echoes the lessons from many religious canons in a very naturalistic way. The apples here are a double metaphor. They are us, as we bloom, ripen, and live out our lives, but they are also individual opportunities. We can choose to partake, or we can let them fall to the ground, unused and lost.

Musically, the wordless material that opens and concludes the piece is sorrowful, breaking. But as we hear these melodies again at the end, they resolve into a D major chord (over the pedal E in the bass line), symbolizing the first apple we taste after having been broken.

- *Timothy C. Takach, 2013*

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Louise Erdrich

Timothy C. Takach

$\bullet = 74$ *mf* *mf*

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Piano (rehearsal only)

4 *mf* *mf*

S
A
T
B

mp *mf* *mf* *mf*

* Between these notes, gently rearticulate the repeated pitch with a minimal stoppage of sound.



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8

S *p* Oh...

A *mp* Life will break you. No-bo-dy can pro -

T *mp* Oh... *p* Oh...

B *mp* Oh... *mp* Life will break you. No-bo-dy can pro - Oh...

8

12

S *mf* Oh... for sol-i-tude will al-so

A tect you from that, and liv-ing a-lone won't ci-ther, Ah... *mf*

T Oh... for sol-i-tude will al-so

B tect you from that, and liv-ing a-lone won't ci-ther, Ah... *mf*

12

f

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16 *f* *poco rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

S break you with its yearn - ing. for sol - i - tude will break you with its

A break you with its yearn - ing. will break you with its

T break you with its yearn - ing. will break you with

B will break you with

20 *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *a tempo*

S yearn - ing. You have to love. You have to

A yearn - ing. You have to love. You have to

T yearn - ing. love.

B yearn - ing. love.

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25 *mf* *f*

S
feel. It is the rea - son you are here on

A
feel. It is the rea - son you are here on

T
feel. It is the rea - son you are here on

B
feel. rea - son you are here on

25

30 *piu mosso* *a tempo* *mf*

S
earth. You are here to risk your heart.

A
earth. You are here to risk your heart.

T
earth. You are here here

B
earth. You are here here

30

34 *ritard* *mp* *pp* *p* = 80

S You are here *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* Ah...

A You are here to be swal-lowed up. And when it hap-pens that you are

T swal-lowed up. Ah... Ah...

B You are here to be swal-lowed up. Ah... Ah...

34

38 *mf*

S or death brush-es near,

A bro-ken, or be - trayed, or left, or hurt, let your-self *mp*

T Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

B Ah... Ah... Ah... let your-self *mf*

38

42 *mp* *f*

S Ah... Ah... And list-en to the ap-ples fall-ing

A sit by an ap-ple tree and list-en to the ap-ples fall-ing

T by an ap-ple tree Ah... list-en list-en Ah...

B sit Ah... Ah... list-en list-en

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46

S fall-ing, fall-ing fall-ing all-a-round you fall-ing, fall-ing

A fall-ing, fall-ing list-en Ah... fall-ing, fall-ing list-en Ah...

T list-en Ah... list-en Ah... list-en list-en list-en

B list-en Ah... list-en Ah... list-en list-en

46

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Sop I (a few singers)

50

S fall - ing all a - round you all a - round you in

A list-en all a - round ap-ples fall-ing all a-round fall-ing in

T list-en list-en all a-round list-en fall-ing in

B list-en all a-round you Ah... all a-round you in

54 *ff* *mp* *p*

S heaps, Oo... Oo...

A heaps, wast - ing their sweet-ness. Tell your - self

T heaps, wast - ing their sweet-ness. Tell your - self

B heaps, Oo...

54

59 *ritard* ♩ = 66

S Oo...

A you tast - ed as man - y as you could. Oo...

T you tast - ed as man - y as you could. Oo...

B Oo...

62 *ritard* *mp*

S Oo... *mp*

A *mp* Oo... *p* Oo... *mp*

T *mp* Oo... *p* Oo... *mp*

B Oo... *mp*

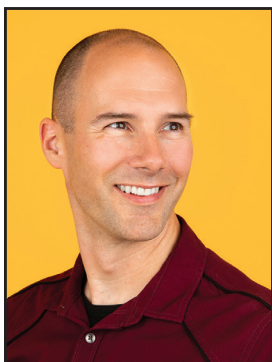
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Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, 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 of *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.

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

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
Even in My Time		3-part treble, piano
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
Joseph		SATB a cappella
MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change		SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: Insidious		SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo		SATB, piano
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
Ragnarök		SATB div. a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Duende		SSAA, floor toms
How to Triumph Like a Girl	(Graphite Publishing)	SSA, piano
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
She Tore a Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano

TB Voices

Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Kin		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast		TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella

Large Works

At Home (ca. 15')		SATB, flute, clarinet
Born For This (ca. 16')		SATB and piano, chamber ensemble, or concert band
Helios (ca. 65')		SATB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
This is How You Love (ca. 35') composed with Jocelyn Hagen		SATB div. a cappella
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano