

Standing Tall  
GP - V003.1  
SAB, piano

Ellen Gilson Voth

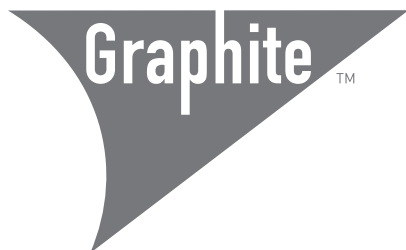
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# Ellen Gilson Voth

## Standing Tall

for SAB choir and piano

Winner of the 2022 ACDA Pearl Prize



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Text:

I see your buds in springtime,  
The fruit you share in summer,  
Standing tall against the sky, making a mark on the world.

I see the snow that graces you in winter,  
The golden leaves you wear in fall.  
You may feel bare branches weighing toward the ground,  
Yet I know your strength within.

Your blossoms may fade,  
Your leaves may be swept away,  
But your roots are strong and your beauty lives on.

\*\*\*\*

We treasure you in springtime  
And in the warmth of summer.

We share the loneliness you feel in winter  
And in the fading light of fall.

Seasons come and seasons go,  
Yet we will always see you standing tall,  
Come summer, winter, spring or fall,  
Making your mark,  
Your beautiful mark on the world.

*- Ellen Gilson Voth and singers from  
Handel and Haydn Society Youth Choruses*

From the Composer:

“Standing Tall” was composed in response to an invitation by Dr. Jennifer Kane, Conductor of the Handel and Haydn Society Youth Chorale (Boston, Massachusetts). When Jennifer asked me to compose a piece following the unexpected passing of a family friend of hers, Alexandra Valoras (2000-2018), I was both honored and humbled by her request. From the start I knew the challenge would lie in crafting a piece to reflect Alexandra’s life and potential, and be an edifying experience for singers who did not know Alexandra, as they would learn and premiere the piece. The music needed to be simple and eloquent welcoming singers coming to understand loss and the ways we can show compassion and confidence in life’s value.

Near the Valoras’ home in Grafton, Massachusetts stands an apple tree; in a family blog post, Alexandra’s father described his memories of the tree with Alexandra in years past. In creating text for this piece, I decided to portray four seasons as seen in the tree; in the second stanza, the tree becomes a metaphor for Alexandra, with the word

There is no one in the world like you.

We are better people with you in the world.

Think of those you cherish  
And those that cherish you.  
You touch our lives in ways you don’t even know.

Tomorrow is always a new and different day.

“you” in place of her name. Dr. Kane and I invited singers from the Youth Chorale to write affirming statements they might share with someone struggling with their self-worth; several of those statements were layered as descant in the second half of the piece.

Wherever performed, we hope “Standing Tall” prompts vital conversation about the fresh start each day offers; the need for deep roots to withstand seasons of promise and of struggle in our lives, often in the order we least expect; and the beauty and inherent worth of every person.

*- Ellen Gilson Voth, 2022*

# Standing Tall

SAB choir and piano

Ellen Gilson Voth and singers from  
Handel and Haydn Youth Choruses--Youth Chorale

Ellen Gilson Voth

*Freely*

Piano

*mp*

*mf*

*Ped. ad libitum*

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6 ♩ = approx. 78-82

10 *mp*

S see your buds in spring time, the fruit you share in sum-mer,

A I see your buds in spring - time, the fruit you share in sum-mer,

10 *mp*

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notable. elevated.

14 *mp*  
 S Standing tall a-against the sky, mak-ing a mark \_\_\_\_\_ on the world.  
 A Standing tall a-against the sky, mak-ing a mark \_\_\_\_\_ on the world.  
 14 *mp*  
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18  
 S \_\_\_\_\_  
 A \_\_\_\_\_  
 B *mp*  
 I see the snow \_\_\_\_\_ that grac-es you \_\_\_\_\_ in win - ter, the gold - en leaves \_\_\_\_\_ you wear in  
 18  
 Graphite notable. elevated.™

22 *mf*  
 S You may feel bare branch - es weigh-ing toward the ground, \_\_\_\_\_  
 A \_\_\_\_\_ notable. elevated.™  
 B \_\_\_\_\_  
 fall.  
 22  
 Graphite notable. elevated.™

*poco accel.* ♩ = approx. 88

26

S Your blos-soms may fade, your

A *mf* yet I know your strength with-in. Your blos-soms may fade, your

B *mf* yet I know your strength with-in. Your blos-soms may fade, your

26 *poco accel.* ♩ = approx. 88

30

S leaves may be swept a way, but your roots are strong

A leaves may be swept a - way, and your beau-ty lives

B leaves may be swept a - way, but your roots are strong

30



47 *mf*

S — like you. We are bet - ter peo-ple with you in the world.

A We are bet-ter peo-ple with you, with

B in the warmth of sum - mer. We are <sup>TM</sup> bet-ter peo-ple with you in the

47

51 *mp* *mp*

S Think of those you

A you in the world. We share the lone-li-ness you feel in win - ter, and

B world. We share the lone-li-ness you feel in win - ter, and

51

55

S cher - ish, and those that cher-ish you. You touch our lives in

A in the fad - ing light of fall. You touch our lives in

B in the fad - ing light of fall. You touch our lives in

Freely

55

59

S ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

A ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

B ways you don't e - ven know.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

♩ = approx. 70-72

59

63

S new — and dif - ferent day. \_\_\_\_\_ Sea - sons come \_\_\_\_\_ and sea - sons go, \_\_\_\_\_

A new — and dif - ferent day. \_\_\_\_\_ Sea - sons come \_\_\_\_\_ and sea - sons go, \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ notable. elevated. \_\_\_\_\_ sea - sons go, \_\_\_\_\_

63

69

*suggesting a return to tempo primo*

S \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* come sum - mer, win - ter, \_\_\_\_\_ spring or fall, \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

B *mp* yet we will al - ways see you stand - ing tall, \_\_\_\_\_

69

*suggesting a return to tempo primo*

♩ = approx. 70-72

73 *mf*

S mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark \_\_\_\_\_

A mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark \_\_\_\_\_

B mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark \_\_\_\_\_

73 *mf*

♩ = approx. 70-72

78 *mp* *p*

S on the world. \_\_\_\_\_

A on the world. \_\_\_\_\_

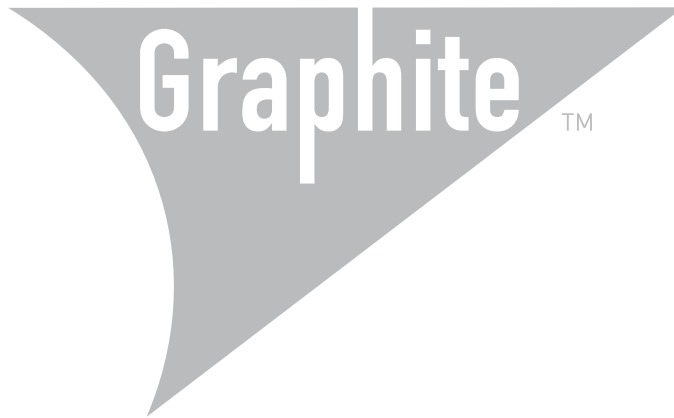
B on the world. \_\_\_\_\_

78 *mp* *p*

♩ = approx. 70-72

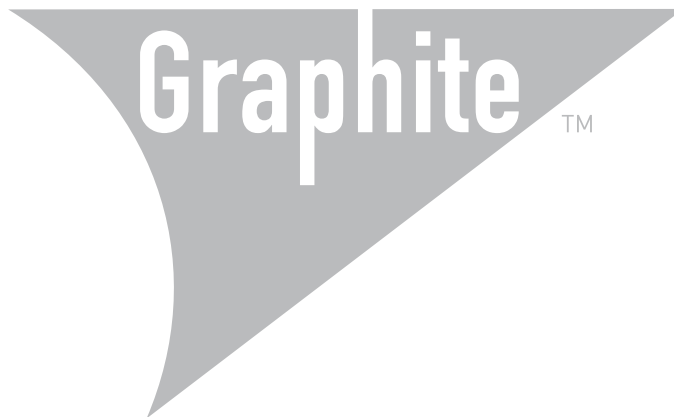
82 *mp* *rit.* *p*

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notable. elevated.

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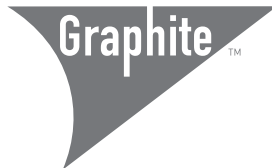
## Ellen Gilson Voth



Active as a conductor and composer, Ellen Gilson Voth composes works that reflect her passion for and commitment to high standards of artistry in writing for the human voice. Praised for music that is “superbly crafted for singer and accompanist,” Voth’s works have been commissioned and premiered by a wide range of professional, semi-professional and amateur choirs across the US, and featured at regional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and College Music Society. Her art song and short opera works have garnered national attention as well. An experienced educator and clinician, she regularly presents workshops and coaches emerging composers on the art and craft of composition. Voth received her DMA degree from The Hartt School, University of Hartford, and currently lives with her husband and daughter in West Hartford, CT. To learn more about her work, visit [www.ellengilsonvoth.net](http://www.ellengilsonvoth.net).

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