

Standing Tall  
GP - V003.4  
SSAA, piano

Ellen Gilson Voth

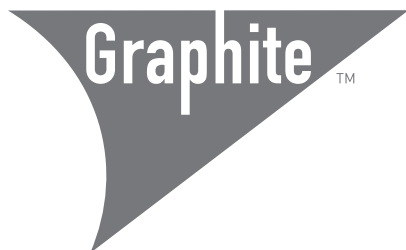
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# Ellen Gilson Voth

## Standing Tall

for SSAA 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

SSAA 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*

6 ♩ = approx. 78-82

10 *mp*

S1 see your buds in spring time, the fruit you share in sum-mer,

S2 I see your buds in spring - time, the fruit you share in sum-mer,

10 *mp*

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14

S1 *mp*  
 — Stand-ing tall a-gainst the sky, mak-ing a mark — on the world.

S2 *mp*  
 — Stand-ing tall a-gainst the sky, mak-ing a mark — on the world.

14

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 TM

18

S1 *mp*  
 I see the snow — that grac-es you — in win - ter, the gold - en leaves — you wear in

S2 *mp*  
 I see the snow — that grac-es you — in win - ter, the gold - en leaves — you wear in

A1 *mp*  
 I see the snow — that grac-es you — in win - ter, the gold - en leaves — you wear in

A2 *mp*  
 I see the snow — that grac-es you — in win - ter, the gold - en leaves — you wear in

18

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 TM

22 *mf*

S1 fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, \_\_\_\_\_

S2 fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, \_\_\_\_\_

A1 fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, \_\_\_\_\_

A2 fall. You may feel bare branch - es weigh - ing toward the ground, \_\_\_\_\_

22

*poco accel.* ♩ = approx. 88

26 *mf*

S1 yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may fade, your

S2 yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may fade, your

A1 yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may fade, your

A2 yet I know your strength with - in. Your blos - soms may fade, your

26 *poco accel.* ♩ = approx. 88

30

S1 leaves may be swept a - way, but your roots are strong \_\_\_\_\_

S2 leaves may be swept a - way, and your beau-ty lives

A1 leaves may be swept a - way, but your roots are strong \_\_\_\_\_

A2 leaves may be swept a - way, and your beau-ty lives

30

34

S1 your beau-ty lives on and on. \_\_\_\_\_

S2 on, and on, lives on, and on, and on and on. \_\_\_\_\_

A1 your beau-ty lives on, and on, and on. \_\_\_\_\_

A2 on, and on, lives on, and on, and on. \_\_\_\_\_

34

38

*gradual return to tempo primo*

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

*mf*

43

*♩ = approx. 82*

Graphite

S1 *mp* There is no one in the world

S2 *mp* There is no one in the world

A1 *mp* We treasure you in spring-time, and

A2 *mp* We treasure you in spring-time, and

43

*♩ = approx. 82*

*mf*

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S1 *mf* like you. We are better people with you in the world.

S2 *mf* like you. We are better people with you in the world.

A1 *mf* in the warmth of summer. We are better people with you, with

A2 *mf* in the warmth of summer. We are better people with you, with

47

51 *mp* Think of those you  
 S1  
 S2 *mp* Think of those you  
 A1 *mp* you in the world. We share the lone-li-ness you feel in win-ter, and  
 A2 *mp* you in the world. We share the lone-li-ness you feel in win-ter, and

55 cher-ish, and those that cher-ish you. You touch our lives in  
 S1  
 S2 cher-ish, and those that cher-ish you. You touch our lives in  
 A1 in the fad-ing light of fall. You touch our lives in  
 A2 in the fad-ing light of fall. You touch our lives in

*♩ = approx. 70-72*

59

S1 ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

S2 ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

A1 ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

A2 ways you don't e - ven know. To - mor - row is al - ways a

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

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59

*mp*

*mp*

*♩ = approx. 70-72*

63

S1 new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come and sea - sons go.

S2 new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come and sea - sons go.

A1 new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come and sea - sons go.

A2 new and dif - ferent day. Sea - sons come and sea - sons go.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

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63

*suggesting a return to tempo primo*

69

S1 *mf* come sum-mer, win - ter, — spring or fall, —

S2 *mf* come sum-mer, win - ter, — spring or fall, —

A1 *mp* yet we will al-ways see you — stand-ing tall, —™

A2 *mp* yet we will al-ways see you — stand-ing tall, —

notable. elevated.

*suggesting a return to tempo primo*

69

♩ = approx. 70-72

73

S1 *mf* mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark

S2 *mf* mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark

A1 *mf* mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark

A2 *mf* mak-ing your mark, your beau-ti - ful mark

notable. elevated.

♩ = approx. 70-72

73

78

S1 *mp* on the world. *p*

S2 *mp* on the world. *p*

A1 *mp* on the world. *p*

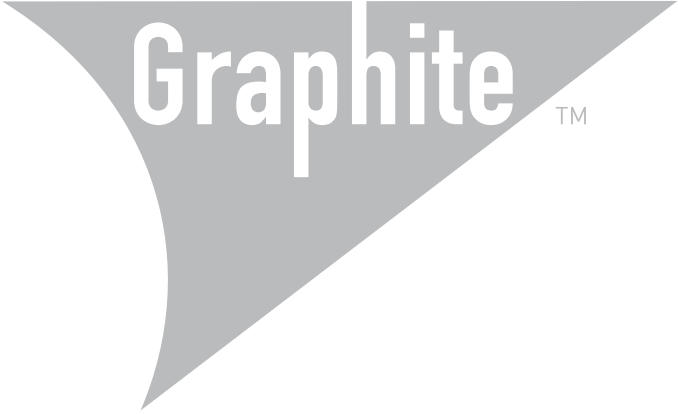
A2 *mp* on the world. *p*

78

*mf*

82

*mp* *rit.* *p*



notable. elevated.

## Ellen Gilson Voth



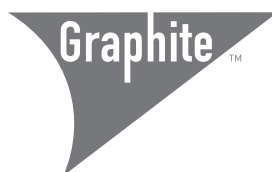
Active as a conductor and composer, Ellen Gilson Voth composes works that reflect her passion for and commitment to high standards of artistry in writing for the human voice. Praised for music that is “superbly crafted for singer and accompanist,” Voth’s works have been commissioned and premiered by 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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