

DT0038 | TRUMBORE | \$2.35
VITAL DANCE | SATB CHORUS & PIANO

VITAL DANCE

SATB Chorus & Piano

Text Abby N. Lewis

The logo for Dale Trumbore, featuring a stylized musical note above the letter 'd' in the word 'daletrumbore'. Below the name, the word 'composer' is written in a smaller, lowercase font, with each letter spaced out.
daletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

VITAL DANCE

In bed, listening to the metronome in my ear, the tiny timekeeper
who will not let me sleep, taking life with each beat into the drum,

tap by tap, a Morse code message in a long-lost language.

Why do I sleep knowing that time will pass as I do? I am free to dance
when Father Time is drowsy, lulled by the white coin in the sky, suspended

between heads or tails. In those moments, we wait, hold

our breath, and dance together in familiar emptiness from which we came
and shall return one day, when our knees are weak and our hair a color

akin to the moon.

One two heads three four tails five six last seven eight day

Hush

Abby N. Lewis,
from *Reticent* (Grateful Steps, 2016; used with permission).

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Vital Dance was commissioned
by East Tennessee State University,
Matthew Potterton, Director of Choral & Vocal Activities.

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NOTE:

Lyrics with x-noteheads should be spoken in a stage-whisper:
still audible, but hushed.

Vital Dance

for SATB Chorus & Piano

Text by Abby N. Lewis

Music by Dale Trumbore

Alternating between metronomic precision
and a fluid rubato throughout; ♩ = ca. 84

a stage-whisper

pp

SOPRANO

one two three four five six se-ven eight one two three

a stage-whisper

pp

ALTO

one two three four five six se-ven eight one two

Alternating between metronomic precision
and a fluid rubato throughout; ♩ = ca. 84

p

Piano

ped.

6

four five six se - ven eight In bed,

three four five six se - ven eight In bed,

a stage-whisper

pp

one two three four five six se - ven eight one two

a stage-whisper

pp

five six se - ven eight

6

p

Vital Dance

10

lis - ten - ing to the met - ro - nome in my ear, the ti - ny time - keep - er who

lis - ten - ing to the met - ro - nome in my ear, the ti - ny time - keep - er who

8 one two three four the ti - ny time - keep - er who

pp *pp*

one two three one two oo

10

mp

14

will not let me sleep,

will not let me sleep, who will not let me sleep, tak - ing

8 will not let me sleep, tak - ing

let me sleep, tak - ing

14

Vital Dance

28 **poco rit.**

mes-sage in a long-lost lan-guage.

mes-sage in a long-lost lan-guage.

mes-sage in a long-lost lan-guage.

mes-sage in a long-lost lan-guage.

28 **poco rit.**

p *mf*

Dreamily, slightly slower; ♩ = ca. 76

33 *mp*

Why do I sleep knowing that time will pass as I do? I am free to

oh time will pass as I do? I am free to

oh time will pass as I do?

Dreamily, slightly slower; ♩ = ca. 76

33

Vital Dance

37 *mf* dance when Fa - ther Time is drow - sy, *mp* lulled

mf dance when Fa - ther Time is drow - sy, *p* ah

8 *mf* am free to dance when Fa - ther Time is drow - sy, *mp* lulled

mf am free to dance when Fa - ther Time is drow - sy, *p* ah

37 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

41 *mf* by the white coin in the sky, *f* lulled by the white coin

mf in the sky, *f* lulled by the white coin

8 *mf* by the white coin in the sky, ah *f* lulled by the white coin

mf in the sky, *f* ah

41 *mf* *f*

Vital Dance

54

pp
one two three four five six se - ven eight

pp
one two three four five four three two

54

p

59

pp *poco rit.*
one two three four five six se-ven eight

pp *p*
five four three two one we_ wait,

mp
one two three four five four three two In those mo-ments, we_ wait,

mp
one two three four In those mo-ments, we_ wait,

59 *poco rit.*

sub. p *p*

Vital Dance

8

In time

65 *p* *f*
hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er
f *mf*
hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er in fa - mil - iar
f *mf*
hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er in fa - mil - iar
f
hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er

In time

65 *mf*
hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er

69 *p*
and shall re - turn one
mp *p*
emp - ti - ness from which we came and shall re - turn one
mp *p*
emp - ti - ness from which we came and shall re - turn one
p
and shall re - turn one

69 (8) *p*
and shall re - turn one

Vital Dance

10

84

four five six se-ven eight

three four five six se-ven eight

pp one two three four *p* last day

mp tails *p* last day

84 (8)

In the span of ca. two measures, the conductor gives a slow, sweeping motion from singers on the left edge of the chorus across to the singers on the right. Singers should also slowly turn to face the back of the stage as they are done with their phrase, creating a wave-like effect of movement and sound across the stage.

LEFTMOST SINGERS

RIGHTMOST SINGERS

89 *whispered* *mf* *mp* *n* *mp* *n* *mp* *n* *mp* *n* *mp* *n*

Hush(shh) (shhhhh) (shhhhh) (shhhhh) (shhhhh) (shhhhh)

89

Ped.