

DT0086 | TRUMBORE | \$2.35  
VITAL DANCE | SSAA CHORUS & PIANO

# VITAL DANCE

SSAA 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 main text, the word 'composer' is written in a smaller, lowercase font, with each letter spaced out.  
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.

Commissioned by East Tennessee State University  
Matthew Potterton, Director of Choral & Vocal Activities

# Vital Dance

for SSAA 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*

SOPRANO *pp*  
one two three four five six se-ven eight one two three

ALTO *pp*  
one two three four five six se-ven eight one two

Piano *p*  
Ped.

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

four five six se - ven eight In bed, *p*

three four five six se - ven eight In bed, *p*

*a stage-whisper* *pp*  
one two three four five six se - ven eight one two *pp*

*a stage-whisper* *pp*  
five six se - ven eight

*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

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

pp pp

one two three one two oo

10

14

will not let me sleep,

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

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 know-ing that time will pass as I do? I am free to

Why do I sleep know-ing 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

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

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

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

*mf* in the sky, *f* ah

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

41

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

In time

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

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

hold our breath, and dance to - geth - er *f*

hold *In time* our breath, and dance to - geth - er *f*



Piano accompaniment for measures 65-68, featuring a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment in 2/4 time. Dynamics include *mf* and *8va*.

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

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

from which we came and shall re - turn one *mp* *p*

from which we came and shall re - turn one *mp* *p*

69 (8)



Piano accompaniment for measures 69-72, featuring a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment in 2/4 time. Dynamics include *p*.

Vital Dance

10 84

four five six se-ven eight

three four five six se-ven eight

*mp* tails last day *p*

*mp* tails last day *p*

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* *mp* *n*

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

89

Ped.