

Winter Walk  
SATB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

pdf download - \$2.15  
printed - \$3.30



# Timothy C. Takach

## Winter Walk from *The Longest Nights*

for SATB a cappella choir

- I. A Winter's Spell (Silvestri)
- II. After Harvest (Raymond)
- III. Many-Splendored Thing (Gruchow)
- IV. Blizzard (Liiv)
- V. Winter Walk (Newhouse)**
- VI. Last Night's Moon (King, Liiv)
- VII. Returning (Berry)



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## Commissioning Choirs:

Marion High School Musica di Vita and Bella Voce, AR; Johnny Peoples  
Catalina Foothills High School, AZ; Leah Seitz  
Irvine High School, CA; Tina Glander Peterson  
Cherry Creek High School Meistersingers, CO; Sarah Harrison  
Connecticut College Choirs, CT; Wendy Moy  
Lake Nona High School Chorus, FL; Justin Chase & Sheryl Carbonell  
CORO, GA; Philip Moody  
Mason City High School Concert Choir, IA; Joel & Rachel Everist, Sarah Bouska  
Eagle High School, ID; Seth McMullen  
Northern Illinois University Concert Choir, IL; Eric A. Johnson, DMA  
University of Notre Dame, IN; Carmen Helena-Tellez  
Lawrence Free State High School, KS; Hilary Morton  
Eastern Kentucky University Concert Choir, KY; Richard Waters  
Prisma Vocal Ensemble, LA; Adam Philley & Costas Dafnis  
The Oriana Consort, MA; Walter Chapin & Caroline Harvey  
Walter Johnson High School Choirs, MD; Kelly Butler  
Yarmouth High School Chamber Choir, ME; Rick Dustin  
Interlochen Arts Academy, MI; John Bragle  
Armstrong High School Choirs, MN; Stephanie Trump & Tony Rangel  
Chapel Choir and Men's Chorus of William Jewell College, MO;  
Dr. Anthony J. Maglione & Nicole Murray  
Great Falls High School Delphian Choir, MT; Patrick Ryan  
Chapel Hill High School Chamber Choir, NC; Jeremy Nabors  
West Fargo Sheyenne High School Concert Choir, ND; Anthony Peterson  
Lincoln East High School, NE; Brett D. Epperson  
Keene High School Music Program, NH; Thomas R. Martin  
South Hunterdon Regional High School Chorus, NJ; Erika Krimm  
Oñate High School Choral Department, NM; Ryan Fellman  
Horace Greeley High School Choir, NY; Maureen Callan  
Bexley High School Vocal Ensemble, OH; Amy Blosser  
Edmond Santa Fe High School Choir, OK; Shermie Potts  
Corvallis High School Choirs, OR; Aubrey Patterson  
Fox Chapel Area High School Choirs, PA; Benjamin Murray  
Hanahan High School Choral Programs, SC; Lindsay Brazell  
Lincoln High School Choral Department, SD; Linda Conrad & Kathy Ferguson  
Rhodes College, Rhodes Singers, TN; William Skoog  
Flower Mound High School, TX; Mark Rohwer, Ph.D.  
The Wesleyan Singers of Virginia Wesleyan College, VA; Bryson Mortensen  
Champlain Valley Union Singers, VT; Carl Recchia  
Moses Lake High School Choir, WA; David Holloway  
New Richmond High School Kammerchor, WI; Andy Schroetter  
Parkersburg South Choral Department, WV; Melissa Life  
Laramie High School Combined Choirs, WY; Michael K. Hancey

## Texts:

### V. Winter Walk

The longest night  
The brightest moon  
The sharpest sting of cold  
The barest branch  
The hardest earth  
My breath the only cloud

And I am out walking to ask the winter moon:  
Who will I be when the spring rains come?

The air so still  
Smoke rising straight  
The snowbanks sleep so deep  
The quiet star  
The silent night  
A lone bird wakes and sings

And I am out walking to hear my heart,  
And I am out walking to hear my heart.

- *Brian Newhouse (commissioned for this piece)*

## From the Composer:

I've always imagined the winter months as the bottom third of a circle, dipping lowest at the new year and then coming back up to find Spring. There was never any negativity or depression attached to that image, but I do think it's neat to think about the act of journeying through Winter as a descent of sorts. We dig deep, we nestle ourselves in, we maintain until it's safe to come out. The texts and music in this piece touch on that idea—that we have to endure, we have to stay strong through the turning of the year. The images of hibernation and metamorphosis come to mind as well—will we be the same person on the other side? Or do we grow? Do we change?

In 2014 Brian Newhouse sent me a piece he had written, and I asked if he would be willing to take two lines from that piece and expand it into a poem for this cycle. He agreed and came up with the wonderful poem "Winter Walk." I imagine this poem falling in the middle of the season, at the peak (or the bottom of my imagined circle, as I mentioned above) of the journey through the darkness. And here we have the main idea of the cycle. The cold and quiet offer us a chance to look inside of ourselves. And if we listen and decide to follow our hearts, who will we be when we come through on the other side? I imagine that we come out as better, stronger versions of ourselves.

- *Timothy C. Takach, 2015*

# V. Winter Walk

for SATB a cappella choir

Brian Newhouse

Timothy C. Takach

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**Tempo:** ♩ = 88 **Dynamic:** *mp*

**Measures 1-5:**

Soprano Alto: The long - est night The bright - est moon The  
Tenor Bass: The long - est night The bright - est moon The

**Measures 6-9:**

SA: sharp - est sting of cold, of cold, of cold  
TB: sharp - est sting of cold, of cold, of cold

**Measures 10-14:**

SA: *p* The bar - est branch The hard - est earth My  
TB: *p* The bar - est branch The hard - est earth My

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15 *mp* *ritard* **Warmly** *mf* = 76

SA breath the on - ly cloud, the on - ly cloud And I am

TB breath the on - ly cloud, the on - ly cloud

19 *mf* *f* *sub. mp*

SA out walk - ing to ask the win - ter moon, to

TB out walk - ing to ask the win - ter moon, to

(add a few basses if needed for balance)

23 *f* *f*

SA ask the win - ter moon: Who will I be when the

TB ask the win - ter moon: Who will I be when the

26 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

SA spring rains come? Who will I be, who will I be?

TB spring rains come? Who will I be, who will I be?

29  $\text{♩} = 88$   
*mp*

SA The air so still Smoke ris - ing straight The

TB *p* (Oo...Oh...Rr...Ee...)

Oo... (half the section should sing overtones, including some lower voices if they are skilled at it. Don't exceed the written dynamic.)

34 *mf* *mp*

SA snow - banks sleep so deep, so — deep, — so deep

TB

38 *p* *mp*

SA The qui - et star The si - lent night A

TB *niente*

43 *mf* *mp* *ritard* **Warmly**  $\text{♩} = 76$  *mf*

SA lone bird wakes and sings Mm... And I am out walk - ing

TB *mp* *mf* Mm... out walk - ing

48 *f* *sub. mp*

SA to hear my heart, to hear my

TB to hear my heart, to hear my

52 *f*

SA heart, And I am out to hear my heart, to

TB heart, And I am out to hear my heart, to

55 *mp* *p*

SA hear my heart. Ah! Ah!

TB hear my heart. Ah! Ah!

60 *mp* *p* *ritard*

SA to hear my heart.

TB to hear my heart.

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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, 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's a cappella choral symphony Helios is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* was premiered in St. Paul, MN by the James Sewell Ballet. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He 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
Crossroads		SATB, piano
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
Mantra	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB, piano
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
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano

### Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
How to Triumph	(Graphite Publishing)	SSA, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Together, Unafraid		SSA, piano
She Tore a Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano

### TB Voices

Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Every Fire		TTBB, piano
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Kin		TB, piano
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
Changed by Beauty (ca. 18')		SATB, cello
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
Unfashioned Creature (ca. 41'), a ballet		SATB, cello, percussion, dancers
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra