



JOAN SZYMKO (b.1957)

Joan Szymko is widely regarded as an outstanding composer of choral music in America today. With a catalog of over 100 choral works in print, her music is sung regularly at choral festivals and competitions across North America and abroad. Since 2003, her music has been heard on stage or in session at every National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association. The ACDA recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in North America by selecting her as a recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission in 2010. Szymko has been commissioned by professional, church, LGBTQ, children's and all manner of academic and community choirs. Her embodied approach to sound, dedication to craft, and insistence on quality texts— all relate to her focus as a conductor and are reflected in her choral compositions. Her settings consistently display a discerning, insightful marriage of words and music with a primary intention to illuminate and magnify the words she sets. Joan lives and works in Portland, Oregon in the beautiful PacificNorthwest. A dynamic conductor, she workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad.

For more about Joan, see www.joanszymko.com.

NOTES from the COMPOSER

"viva sweet love" was composed for the Lincoln Center debut of the choral ensembles of Oregon State University. BelleVoce women's choir received a generous donation from the OSU Women's Giving Circle to support the commissioning of the work. The context of a spring premiere in New York City dictated my search for text. I turned to one of America's preeminent 20th century poets, E.E.Cummings, himself a New Yorker!

This richly emotive poem bursts with energy and joy, perfectly capturing the essence of saying "yes" to love. It should be sung in an extravagant manner, as it is alternately driving and sensuous, explosive and tender, bold and shimmering. Take care to sing phrases as indicated and faithfully adhere to tempo markings.

LYRICS

sweet spring is your

by Edward Estlin Cummings (1894-1962)

"sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love"
(all the merry little birds are
flying in the floating in the
very spirits singing in
are winging in the blossoming)

lovers go and lovers come
awandering awondering
but any two are perfectly
alone there's nobody else alive

(such a sky and such a sun
i never knew and neither did you
and everybody never breathed
quite so many kinds of yes)

not a tree can count his leaves
each herself by opening
but shining who by thousands mean
only one amazing thing

(secretly adoring shyly
tiny winging darting floating
merry in the blossoming
always joyful selves are singing)

"sweet spring is your
time is my time is our
time for springtime is lovetime
and viva sweet love"

"sweet spring is your" originally appeared in the collection, "1 X 1" (published by H.Holt, 1944)

commissioned by Belle Voce, Dr. Tina Bull, Director
Oregon State University

viva sweet love

E.E. Cummings

Joan Szymko

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) is for the Piano, marked *Spritely* and *mp*. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The second system (measures 6-10) is for four vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) and the Piano. The vocal parts are marked *p* and *poco a poco cresc.*. The lyrics for all parts are: "sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is love - time and". The piano accompaniment in the second system is marked *mp*. A large green watermark "for perusal only" is overlaid on the vocal staves.

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[3 equal voices]

Sostenuto

12 *mf* *mp*

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

vi - va sweet love and vi - va

mf *mp* *8va* *legato*

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16 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

sweet love and vi - va

sweet love and vi - va

sweet love and vi - va

cresc. *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

19

S1 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

S2 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

A1 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

A2 *mf* *p*
sweet _____ love"

love sweet love"

mf *dim.* *p*

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23

Allegretto

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

(all the mer - ry lit - tle birds are

A *light & bouncy*

25

S1
S2
A1
A2

fly - ing in the float - ing in the ve - ry spi - rits sing - ing in are

fly - ing, float - ing spi - rits sing - ing in are

28

molto rit.

wing - ing in the blos - som ing) blos - som - ing

wing - ing in the blos - som ing) blos - som - ing

Sost. *molto rit.*

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33

B *Slower, espressivo*
mp ♩=64

poco rit.

accel.

lov - ers go and lov - ers come a - wan - der - ing a - won - der - ing a - wan - der - ing a -

lov - ers come wan - der ing won - der - ing wan - der - ing a

N.B.

Ped.

37

pp ♩=76

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone there's

won-der-ing but a - ny two are per-fect-ly a - lone there's

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43

no-bo-dy else a - live

no-bo dy else a - live

no-bo-dy else a - live

no-bo-dy else a - live

8 47 **C** **Tempo primo** *f sempre*

S1
S2 (such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew and

A1
A2 (such a sky and such a sun i ne - ver knew and

C **Tempo primo**
a bit marcato
pp — *molto* *f*

52

nei - ther did you — ev - ery - bo - dy

nei - the did you — and ev - y - bo - dy

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mf *cresc.* *f*

57

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of (yes)

ev - ery - bo - dy ne - ver breathed quite so ma - ny kinds of (yes)

mf *f* *8va*

61

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

dim. *mp*

quite so ma-ny kinds of yes yes

legato *mf* *dim.* *mp*

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64 [3 equal voices] *rit.* *p* *acc.* *mp* *mf*

not a tree can count his leaves

p *mp*

not a tree can count his leaves

mp *mf*

not a tree can count

rit. **D** *acc.* *p* *mp* *mp*

p *mp* *mp*

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79

S1
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

S2
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A1
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

A2
on - ly one a - maz - ing on - ly one a - maz - ing thing

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *dim.* *mp*

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85 **E** Tempo primo

S1
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

S2
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

A1
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

A2
mp *p*
(se - cret - ly a - dor - ing shy - ly ti - ny wing - ing dart - ing float - ing

E Tempo primo

p *mp*

89

mp *mf*

S1
S2
mer - ry in the blos - som-ing mer-ry in the blos - som-ing

mp *mf*

A
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry blos - som - ing

mp *mf*

A2
mer - ry in the mer - ry mer - ry blos - som-ing

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94 *poco rit.* **F** A tempo *f*

S1
S2
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

f

A1
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

f

A2
al-ways joy - ful selves are sing ing

poco rit. **F** A tempo *mp* *f* *mf*

101

ff *f*

S1 al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

S2 al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

A1 *ff* *mf* *f* al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

A2 *ff* *mf* *f* al - ways joy - ful al - ways joy - ful selves are sing - ing

105

mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

sub mp *mf*

"sweet spring is your time is my time is our time for spring - time is

mp

110

love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and
love - time and vi - va sweet love and

p and
p and
p and
p and

mp

8^{va}

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114

vi - va sweet
vi - va sweet
vi - va sweet

p

116 *mf*

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

love and vi - va

mp

for perusal only

118 *mf*

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

sweet love sweet

f

