

Lauren Biggs
SSAA a cappella
JH - GRL29.1

Lauren Biggs

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The Will of a Sailor

Lauren Biggs

for SSAA a cappella choir



COMPOSE
LIKE A GIRL

Illustration: KT Thompson

jh music

Text:

Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

From the Composer

After my father's death in a paragliding accident in 2023, I began to relate to Robert Louis Stevenson's Requiem on a more personal level. Not only is this piece a requiem, but it's also a sendoff. Inspired by Irish folk music, it captures the nostalgia of remembering someone who's passed on. The sailor. The hunter. The adventurer. These words more or less capture who my father was. He was also a musician, and without him or my mother I would not be able to study music — which is a great privilege. So this is, in a way, a song of gratitude. Writing it helped me process my emotions during a season of grief. I hope it can serve a similar purpose for others.

- Lauren Biggs

Dear conductor,

You can support these composers, diversify your concerts, and push towards equality by programming music from the #ComposeLikeAGirl series. Inviting the composer into the rehearsal process through a zoom or in-person workshop or Q & A session is an incredible experience for all involved. Be sure to notify and invite the composer to any performances of the work, and submit a PDF of the concert program to JH Music to ensure the composer receives performances royalties from ASCAP. Thank you!

~ Jocelyn Hagen



Lauren Biggs (2002) is a California-based composer, producer, and singer/songwriter. Lauren strives to tell meaningful stories, spread joy through collaborative music-making, and to create and share her art as an act of reverence to a higher power. Originally from Alaska, Lauren is currently pursuing her BM in Composition at Azusa Pacific University. For more info: laurenbiggsmusic.com

In honor of my father, Dr. Russell Biggs

The Will of a Sailor

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for SSAA choir

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Robert Louis Stevenson
(1850-1894)

Lauren Biggs

With spirit ♩. = 44

mp N.B.

Soprano 1
Un-der the wide and star-ry sky, dig the grave and let me lie. Glad did I live and—

mp N.B.

Soprano 2
Un-der the wide and star-ry sky, dig the grave and let me lie. Glad did I live and

mp

Alto 1
Glad did I live and—

mp

Alto 2
Glad did I live and—

Piano
for rehearsal only

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6

S1 glad - ly die and I laid me down with a will. This verse grave me:

S2 glad - ly die and I laid me down with a will. This verse grave me:

A1 glad - ly die and I laid me down with a will. This is the verse you grave for me:

A2 glad - ly die and I laid me down with a will. This is the verse you grave for me:

mf *N.B.*

Piano accompaniment for the first system, including grand staff and individual staves.

11

S1 Here he* lies longed to be; home is the sail - or, home from sea, and the

S2 Here he* lies longed to be; home is the sail - or, home from sea,

A1 Here he* lies where he longed to be; home is the sail - or, home from sea,

A2 Here he* lies where he longed to be; home is the sail - or, home from sea,

f *mf* *poco rit.* *A tempo* *N.B.*

Piano accompaniment for the second system, including grand staff and individual staves.

15

S1 *p*
 hun - ter home from the hill. "oo"

S2 *p dolce, like a sigh* *mp*
 Home, ("m") Home, ("m") Home,

A1 *p dolce, like a sigh* *mp* N.B.
 Home, ("m") Home, ("m")

A2 *p (stagger breathing)* *mp* N.B.
 Home, ("m") Home, ("m") Home, ("m") Home, ("m")

Piano accompaniment for measures 15-20, including a fermata and a second ending (2).

joce lyn chagen

S1 *f* *molto rit.* *ff*
 Home is the sail-or, home from the sea!

S2 *mf* N.B. *ff*
 Home, ("m") Home, sea!

A1 *mf* N.B. *ff*
 Home, ("m") Home, ("m") N.B. sea!

A2 *mf* N.B. *ff*
 Home, Home, Home, sea!

Piano accompaniment for measures 21-26, including a fermata and a second ending (2).

26 *Energetically* ♩. = 50

S1 *mf* Un-der the wide and star-ry sky, dig the grave and let me lie. *mf* and I

S2 *mf* Un-der the wide and star-ry sky, dig the grave and let me lie.

A1 *mf* Glad did I live and glad-ly die, — and I

A2 *mf* Glad did I live and glad-ly die, — and I

Piano accompaniment for measures 26-31.

32 *lo c e l y n h a g e n* (stagger breathing)

S1 laid me down — with a will. "oo" *mf* (stagger breathing) *N.B.*

S2 "oo" *mf* (stagger breathing) *N.B.*

A1 laid me down — with a will. bum bum bum "oo" *mf* (stagger breathing) *N.B.*

A2 laid me down — with a will. bum bum ba da dum "oo" *mf* (stagger breathing) *N.B.*

Piano accompaniment for measures 32-37.

37 *ff*

S1 "ah" "ah" N.B.

S2 "ah" "ah" N.B.

A1 "ah" "ah" "oo" N.B.

A2 *ff* (stagger breathing) "ah" "ah" N.B.

molto rit.

44 *mf* *f* *ff*

S1 Glad did I live and glad - ly die, and I laid me down with a will.

S2 Glad did I live and glad - ly die, and I laid me down with a will.

A1 and I laid me down with a will.

A2 "oo" and I laid me down with a will.

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COMPOSE LIKE A GIRL

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