

031.40

SHARA NOVA

When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

From "Winter Hymns"

for SSA choir with divisi, harp, and viola (2024)

Blue Sword Publishing

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Music and Lyrics by
Shara Nova, 2024.

Instrumental arrangements and
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from “Winter Hymns”

for SSA choir with divisi, harp, and viola

Shara Nova, 2024 — Duration ca. 5’10”

Divisi

The choir has is divided into three main sections; Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto. Soprano 2 is occasionally split further, with S2a an S2b designations.

Commissioning Information

Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Jennah Delp. Premiered December 2, 2023 at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church featuring harpist Jieyin Wu and violist Lesley Roberston.

Instrumentation

For this piece, the choir is accompanied by a viola and a harp. The harp part can be substituted for a piano in no harp is available, though some adaptation may be needed to make the part idiomatic.

Program Note

As midwinter approaches, many people slow down a bit to reflect, and to listen to the world around them. The internality of the season invites us to take stock of what we have, and grieve what we’ve lost. For many, it’s a time to pay attention to the relationships that give our lives meaning.

“Winter Hymns” brings us into the emotional world that characterizes these end-of-year reflections, often using nature as a lens.

Winter is a time of profound changes in the natural world, where the colors of fall give way to the austerity of December. These changes affect us deeply, shaping our moods and outlook. Within winter’s gloom, though, are hints of abundance. The vibrancy of an evergreen in snow. A glimpse of a silent barred owl. Stars emerging from a brilliant winter sunset. A flash of red as a cardinal flies by.

In “Winter Hymns,” these images lead us into a space of celebration and reflection, where we consider what connects us to loves ones, to nature, and to home.

Editions

This piece is a movement of the larger work “Winter Hymns,” excerpted for stand alone performance.

[031.40] “When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near” from Winter Hymns

The other three movements from “Winter Hymns” are also available as separate editions.

[031.10] “Come ‘Round the Evergreen,” from Winter Hymns

[031.20] “Owl Song” from Winter Hymns

[031.30] “The Last Light” from Winter Hymns

Finally, all four movements are available in a single edition.

[031.00] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

Lyrics

Ah, ah, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah,
Ah, ah, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah,

Amid the winter’s muted palate
The cardinal in it’s bright red cape
Is radiance, radiance.

Hope flashing color,
The sadness of the season will not last.
The sadness, the sadness,
The sadness of the season will not last.

(lyrics continued on next page)

Yet I weep!

This winter of weeping for love,
lost from the body.

Weep, weep, weep,
For love, lost from the body,
The sorrow is equal to love's magnitude.

The cardinal bright appears
Even in this winter's gloom,

Amid the winter's muted palate,
The cardinal in it's bright red cape
Is radiance, radiance.

Hope, flashing color,
Hope, flashing color,
And at its bright appearance, I know
the spirit of my love is near,
The spirit, the spirit,
The spirit of my love is near,
The spirit, the spirit,
The spirit of my love is near,
So near, so near,
Radiant, radiant!

VOCAL RANGES

The image displays four musical staves, each representing a different vocal range. Each staff begins with a treble clef and contains a melodic line consisting of a quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note, connected by a diagonal line. The notes are positioned on the staff to indicate their pitch relative to the vocal range.

- Soprano Solo:** The notes are on the top line (F4), the second space (A4), and the third space (C5).
- Soprano 1:** The notes are on the second space (A4), the third space (C5), and the top line (F5).
- Soprano 2:** The notes are on the first space (F4), the second space (A4), and the third space (C5).
- Alto:** The notes are on the first space (F4), the second space (A4), and the third space (C5).

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SHARA NOVA

SHARA NOVA (2024)
ARR. J. Clay Gonzalez

Tentative, ♩ = 60

mf

Soprano Solo

Ah, ah, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah, Ah, ah,

molto sul pont

Viola

ppp

Harp

A Moderate, ♩ = 90

S solo

ah - ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah - ah - ah - ah,

Vla.

8va

Hp.

pp

7 **All S1** *p*

S1 A - mid the win - ter's mut - ed pal - late, —

Vla. *pp*

Hp. (8)

10 **B** *mf*

S1 The car - di-nal in it's bright red

S2 The car - di-nal in it's bright red

A car - di-nal in it's bright red

Vla. ord. *mf* *f*

Hp. (8)

13

S1 *f* cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,

S2 *f* cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,

A *f* cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,

Vla. *ppp* molto sul pont.

Hp. (8)

15

S1 ra - - - di - ance.

S2 ra - - - di - ance.

A ra - - - di - ance. ord. molto sul pont.

Vla. *f* *ppp*

Hp. (8)

C

small group ad. lib

17 *mp*

S

Hope flash-ing co - lor, Hope flash - ing

A

small group ad. lib
mp

Hope flash-ing co - lor, Hope flash - ing

Vla.

Hp.

(8)



20

S

co - lor, The sad ness of the sea - son will not last, The

p

S1 only *p*

A

co - lor, The sad ness of the sea - son will not last,

p

Vla.

Hp.

(8)

ppp

25 **D**

S1 *mp*
sad-ness, The sad - ness, The sad - ness of the sea - son will not

S2 *mp*
The sad-ness, The sad - ness, The sad - ness of the sea - son will not

A *p*
The sad - ness, the sea - son will not

Vla.

Hp. *E♭ to E♭*
B♭ to B♭



30 *p* **E**

S *p*
last. Yet I weep! This win - ter of weep - ing for

A *p*
last.

Vla.

Hp. *pp* *sva-*

34

S love, _____ lost from the bo - dy.

A _____ lost from the bo - dy.

Viola: *mp*

Hp.

F

37 *p*

S1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

S2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

Viola:

Hp.

C₄ to C₃
F₄ to F₃

41

S1
weep, weep,

S2
weep, weep,

A1
weep, weep,

A2
weep, weep,

Vla.
f

Hp.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, page 7, contains measures 41 through 44. It features six staves. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) are in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. S1 and S2 have lyrics 'weep,' under their notes. A1 and A2 also have lyrics 'weep,'. The Viola part (Vla.) is in bass clef and features a melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Harp part (Hp.) is in treble clef and is currently silent. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

45

S1

S2

A1

A2

Vla.

Hp.

G

weep,

weep,

mp

For love, for love, for love,

bisbig.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains six staves. The vocal staves (S1, S2, A1, A2) are in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. S1 and S2 have long, sustained notes with fermatas. A1 and A2 have lyrics: 'weep,' and 'For love, for love, for love,' respectively. The Viola part (Vla.) is in alto clef with a 5/4 time signature, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern. The Harp part (Hp.) is in grand staff with a 5/4 time signature, including a 'bisbig.' (pizzicato) instruction. A box containing the letter 'G' is positioned above the S1 staff. A large, diagonal watermark 'Perusal Perusal Perusal' is overlaid across the entire page.

48 *mp* *p*

S1
lost from the bo - dy, To love,

S2
mp *mf*
lost from the bo - dy, The sor - row is

A1
mp
lost from the bo - dy,

A2
p
lost from the bo - dy, To love, to love, to love, to love,

Vla.

Hp.
G₄ to G₅
D₄ to D₅

52

S1
to love, to love, to love, to love, to love, to mag - ni-tude.

S2
e - qual to love's mag - ni-tude.

A1
to love, to love, to love, to love, to mag - ni-tude.

A2
to love, to love, to love, to love, mag - ni-tude.

Vla.
mf *p* 5 3

Hp.

H

56

The musical score consists of six staves. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) are in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. They all sing the lyrics: "The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's_". The dynamics for the vocal parts are marked *mf*. The Viola part (Vla.) is in alto clef with a 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *p*, and a fingered fifth. The Harp part (Hp.) is in grand staff with a 3/4 time signature, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a key signature change from A major to A-flat major, indicated by "A \sharp to A \flat ". The Harp part includes a *gliss* marking and a piano (*p*) dynamic.

60

S1a. *gloom.*

S1b. *gloom.*

S2 *gloom.*

A1 *gloom.*

A2 *gloom.*

Vla. *f* *mf* *p*

Hp. *f* *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains seven staves. The top five staves are vocal parts: S1a, S1b, S2, A1, and A2. Each vocal line begins with a tempo marking of 60 and a dynamic marking of *gloom.* The vocal parts feature a melodic line with frequent triplet markings. The sixth staff is for the Viola (Vla.), written in alto clef with a 3/4 time signature. It includes dynamic markings of *f*, *mf*, and *p*, along with a fermata and a measure with a '5' below it. The seventh staff is for the Harp (Hp.), with a treble and bass clef, featuring dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. A rehearsal mark (8) is placed above the first measure of the Harp part.

63

S1 *mp*
A - midst the win - ter's

S2

A

Vla. *molto sull pont.*
pp

Hp. *pp*

Ab to A \sharp D \flat to D \sharp
B \flat to B \sharp E \flat to E \sharp
Cb to C \sharp F \flat to F \sharp

66

S1 *mf*
mu - ted pa - lette, The car - di-nal

S2 *mf*
The car - di-nal

A *mf*
car - di-nal

Vla. *ord.*
f

Hp. *f*

G \flat to G \sharp

69

S1 in it's bright red cape, *f* Is ra - - di - ance,

S2 in it's bright red cape, *f* Is ra - - di - ance,

A in it's bright red cape, *f* Is ra - - di - ance,

Vla. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

72

S1 ra - - di - ance.

S2 ra - - di - ance.

A ra - - di - ance.

Vla.

Hp. *ff*

74

S solo

mf

And

mp

S

Hope, flash-ing co - lor, Hope, flash-ing co - lor,

mp

A

Hope, flash-ing co - lor, Hope, flash-ing co - lor,

Vla.

mp

79

S solo

I

at its bright ap - pea - rance I know, The spi - rit of my love is

84

S solo

J

near,

p

S

The spi - rit, The spi -

p

A

The spi - rit, The spi -

Vla.

mp

sumptuously

Hp.

f

88 *p* *mf* *p*

S solo
The spi - rit of my love is near,

S
-rit, The spi - rit of my love is near,

A
-rit, The spi - rit of my love is near,

Vla.

Hp.

92 *p* *p* *p*

S solo
is near,

S
The spir - - - rit,

A
The spi - - - rit,

Vla.

Hp.