

031.90

SHARA NOVA

When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

From "Winter Hymns"

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

Blue Sword Publishing

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Music and Lyrics by
Shara Nova, 2024.

Instrumental arrangements and
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When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

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 piano.

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

The original version of “Winter Hymns” is written for SSA choir, harp, and viola.

The following edition contains all four movements:

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

Additionally, each movement is available as stand-alone works.

[031.10] “Come ‘Round the Evergreen,” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

[031.20] “Owl Song” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

[031.30] “The Last Light” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

[031.40] “When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near”, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

An edition that includes all four movements and substitutes the harp for a piano is available, rewriting various passages to be more idiomatic for the piano.

[031.50] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

(continued on next page)

Editions, continued.

This edition features the fourth movement as a stand-alone work, with the harp substituted for piano.

[031.90] “When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near”, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

The other three movements, as arrangements for SSA, piano, and viola, are also available stand-alone.

[031.60] “Come ‘Round the Evergreen,” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

[031.70] “Owl Song” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

[031.80] “The Last Light” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

Finally, versions of all these editions for SSA and piano only are also available.

[031.A0] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano

[031.B0] “Come ‘Round the Evergreen,” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano

[031.C0] “Owl Song” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano

[031.D0] “The Last Light” from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano

[031.E0] “When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near”, for SSA choir and piano

Lyrics

Ah, ah, 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.

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 single note with a diagonal line extending upwards to the right, indicating the range of the voice. The labels for each staff are: Soprano Solo, Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto.

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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, ah,

molto sul pont

Viola

ppp

Piano

4

A Moderate, ♩ = 90

S solo

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

Vla.

Pno.

pp

8va

ped. Check every bar or so. A resonant sound, but without too much bleed.

7

All S1 *p*

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

Vla. *pp*

Pno. (8)

10

B

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

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

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

Vla. ord. *mf* *f*

Pno. (8) *pp*

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.

Pno. (8)

15

S1 ra - - - di - ance.

S2 ra - - - di - ance.

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

Vla. *f* *ppp*

Pno. (8)



small group ad. lib

mp

S

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

A

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

small group ad. lib
mp

Vla.

Pno.



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, The

p

Vla.

Pno.

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.

Pno.



30 *p* **E**

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

A *p*
last.

Vla.

Pno. *pp*
grv
red. sim.

34

S love, _____ lost from the bo - dy.

A _____ lost from the bo - dy.

Viola: *mp*

Pno.

F

37

S1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

S2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

Viola:

Pno.

41

S1
weep, weep,

S2
weep, weep,

A1
weep, weep,

A2
weep, weep,

Vla.
f

Pno.

45

S1

S2

A1
weep,

A2
weep, *mp* For love, for love, for love,

Vla.

Pno.
gentle, loose tremolo.
pp
half-check every bar, for a rumbly, dark sound

G

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.

Pno.

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

Pno.

H

56

S1 *mf*
The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's_

S2 *mf*
The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's_

A1 *mf*
The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's_

A2 *mf*
The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's_

Vla. *mf* *p*
5

Pno. *f* *p* *swr*

ped. Check every bar or so. A resonant sound, but without too much bleed.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features several vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts (S1a, S1b, S2, A1, A2) all have the lyric "gloom." written below them. S1a and S1b have triplet markings over their notes. S2, A1, and A2 also feature triplet markings. The Viola part (Vla.) is in 5/4 time and includes dynamic markings of *f*, *mf*, and *p*, along with a fermata and a 5-measure rest. The Piano part (Pno.) is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings of *f* and *p*, with a fermata and a 5-measure rest. The score is marked with a tempo of 60.

63

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

S2

A

Vla. *molto sull pont.*
pp

Pno. (8)

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

Pno. *f*
sustained sound, legato
no pedal

69

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

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

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

Vla.

Pno. *mf*

72

S1
— ra - - di - ance.

S2
— ra - - di - ance.

A
— ra - - di - ance.

Vla.

Pno. *ff*

74

S solo *mf* And

S *mp* Hope, flash-ing co - lor, Hope, flash-ing co - lor,

A *mp* Hope, flash-ing co - lor, Hope, flash-ing co - lor,

Vla. *mp*

79 **I**

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

84 **J**

S solo near,

S *p* The spi - rit, The spi

A *p* The spi - rit, The spi

Vla. *mp*

Pno. *f* sumptuously

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.

Pno.

92 *p*

S solo
is near,

S
p
The spir - - - rit,

A
p
The spi - - - rit,

Vla.

Pno.