

031.E0

SHARA NOVA

When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

From "Winter Hymns"

for SSA choir (with divisi) and piano (2025)

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) and piano

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 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

Editions that substitute the harp part for a piano are available, rewriting various passages to be more idiomatic for the piano.

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

[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

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

(continued on next page)

Editions, continued.

This edition features the second movement, arranged for choir and piano only (no viola.)

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

Versions of all editions for SSA and piano only (no viola) 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

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 stem and a flag, indicating a specific pitch. A diagonal line is drawn across each staff to show the range of the voice part. The labels for each staff are: Soprano Solo, Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto.

Vocal Range	Approximate Pitch Range
Soprano Solo	C4 to G4
Soprano 1	C4 to E4
Soprano 2	C4 to D4
Alto	C3 to E3

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Premiered December 2, 2023 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church featuring
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When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

for SSA choir with divisi, piano, and viola

from "Winter Hymns"

Dedicated to sculptor Ginger Geyer who taught me to recognize Spirit.

SHARA NOVA

Tentative, ♩ = 60

SHARA NOVA (2024)
ARR. J. Clay Gonzalez

Soprano Solo

mf Ah, _____ ah, _____ *p* ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah -

Piano

a gentle, uneven roll with one finger.

ppp

January 18, 2025

S solo

mf ah - ah, Ah, _____ ah, _____ *p* ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah -

Pno.

A Moderate, ♩ = 90

All S1 *p*

S1

A - mid the win - ter's

sva

Pno. *pp*

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

9

S1 *mf*
mut - ed pal - late, The

S2 *mf*
The

(8)

Pno.

B

11

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

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

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

(8)

Pno. *f*

13

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

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

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

Pno. *mf*
(8) _____

15

S1 _____ ra - - - di - ance. _____

S2 _____ ra - - - di - ance. _____

A _____ ra - - - di - ance. _____

Pno. *ff*

17 **C** small group ad. lib
mp

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

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

Pno. *pp*

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

20 S co - lor, The sad ness of the sea - son will not last, S1 only p

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

Pno. (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

Pno.

=

30 **E**

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

A *p*
last.

Pno. *pp*
gma
red. sim.

34

S love, _____ lost _____ from the bo - dy.

A lost _____ from the bo - dy.

Pno. *mp* *p* *mf*

F

37 *p*

S1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

S2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A1 Weep, _____ weep, _____

A2 Weep, _____ weep, _____

Pno. *mf*

41

S1
weep, weep,

S2
weep, weep,

A1
weep, weep,

A2
weep, weep,

Pno.

45

S1

S2

A1
weep,

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

Pno. *pp*

G

48 *mp* *p*

S1
lost from the bo - dy, To love,

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

A1
lost from the bo - dy,

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

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.

Pno.

f *mp* 5 3

H

55

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_

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*
8va

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

60

S1a. *gloom.*

S1b. *gloom.*

S2. *gloom.*

A1. *gloom.*

A2. *gloom.*

Pno. *f* *p* *p*

(8) *15ma*

64

mp

S1 A - midst the win - ter's

S2

A

Pno. no pedal *pp*

66

mf

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

S2 The car - di nal

A car - di nal

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

sustained sound, legato

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,

mf

Pno.

72

S1
ra - - di - ance.

S2
ra - - di - ance.

A
ra - - di - ance.

ff

Pno.

74

S solo *mf*

S *mp*

A *mp*

Pno. *mp*

And

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

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

79 **I**

S solo

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

84 **J**

S solo

S *p*

A *p*

Pno. *f*

near,

The spi - - - rit, The spi - - - rit,

The spi - - - rit, The spi - - - rit,

sumptuously

ad. lib.

ad. lib. to expand the sound

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,

Pno.

92 *p* *p* *p*

S solo
is near,

S
The spir - - - rit,

A
The spi - - - rit,

Pno.