




SAUNDER
CHOI

FOLLOW THE SUN

for SATB choir and piano



SAUNDER CHOI *music*



Claude Monet 89

PROGRAM NOTES:

Follow the Sun is a setting of Brian Sonia-Wallace's *Stacks* – a poem conceived during a writing residency at The Getty, where a few of Monet's Haystacks are housed. In this series of paintings, Monet used the same subject of wheat or haystacks and painted them at different times of the day, across seasons, and in different types of weather, skillfully capturing the dynamic interplay of light and color.

Over the years, I've encountered several of Monet's Haystacks at prominent galleries such as The Getty, the Art Institute of Chicago, and more recently at the L'orangerie and D'orsey museums during a trip to Paris last summer. Like the paintings, *Follow the Sun* adopts a loose theme and variation form, where the melodic structure remains consistent as the narrative moves through the seasons.

Brian shared that the original, typewritten version of this poem now lives on the other side of the world, as it was written for two women visiting The Getty from China. They were particularly taken by the soft, ethereal colors depicted in the paintings. Art, like the conversations that inspire it, ripples out across time in unexpected ways. With each passing season, we observe the nuances of light and extend an invitation for connection through this shared observation in a way that predates language and may have even played a role in its evolution.

Follow the Sun is commissioned by the Los Angeles Master Chorale for the 35th Annual High School Choir Festival; Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director.

TEXT:

Stacks

After Monet

by Brian Sonia-Wallace

Before we grow old
But after we're young
We'll follow the seasons
We'll follow the sun

Gnarled as a flower
Soft as a stem
Always growing and wilting
And growing again

Hot as a shadow
When days grow long
The birds go quiet
And silence their song

Pink as a field
Orange as a hill
Tall as a haystack
Strong as a will

Meet me in winter
Meet me in snow
Save me a place
By the fireside's glow

Meet me in sunlight
Meet me in shade
The shimmering horizon
Before the light fades

commissioned by the Los Angeles Master Chorale
for the 35th Annual High School Choir Festival
World Premiere May 3, 2024, Walt Disney Concert Hall
Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler artistic director

Follow the Sun

poetry by Brian Sonia-Wallace
used by permission

for SATB choir and piano

Saunder CHOI

Playfully ♩ = 80

Soprano *p lightly*
the sun, fol-low the sun;

Alto *p lightly*
Fol-low, sun, fol-low the sun;

Tenor *p lightly*
the sun, the sun, fol-low;

Bass *mp*
fol-low;

Piano *p*
(LH)

ped. blur sim.

5 *mf* *mp*
S. the sun, fol-low the sun, fol-low. Be-fore, be-fore

mf *mp*
A. Fol-low, sun, fol-low the sun, fol-low. Be-fore, be-fore

mf *mp*
T. the sun, fol-low the sun, fol-low. Be-fore, be-fore

mf *mp*
B. fol-low the sun, fol-low. Be-fore, be-fore

Pno. *mf* *mp*
(RH)

ped. blur sim.

10 *Purcellian* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

S. we grow old But af - ter we're young

A. we grow old But af - ter we're young

T. we grow old But af - ter,

B. we grow old But af - ter,

Pno. *mp*

pedal with more harmonic clarity

14 *poco f* *poco f* *poco f* *poco f*

S. We'll fol-low the sea - sons. We'll fol-low the sun,

A. We'll fol-low the sea - sons. We'll fol-low the sun,

T. af - ter we're young We'll fol-low the sea - sons. We'll

B. af - ter we're young We'll fol-low the sea - sons. We'll

Pno. *poco f*

poco rit. . . .

18

S. the sun

A. sun fol-low, fol-low

T. fol-low the sun, sun(nn)... fol-low, fol-low

B. fol-low the sun, sun(nn)... fol-low, fol-low

Pno.

A a tempo

22

S. Gnarled as a flo-wer Soft as a

A. Gnarled as a flo-wer Soft as a

T. Gnarled as a flo-wer Soft as a stem

B.

Pno.

33

S. *mf*
fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

A. *mf*
fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

T. *mf*
Hot as a, hot as a sha - dow when days grow long

B. *mf mel.*
Hot as a sha - dow when days grow long

Pno. *mf*

37

S. *rit.*
fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

A. *rit.*
fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

T. *mp*
The birds go qui - et and

B. *mp*
The birds go qui - et and

Pno. *mp*

C Slower, lush ♩ = 76

40

S. *p* fol - low, fol - low,

A. *p* fol - low, fol - low,

T. *3* si - lence their song (ng)

B. *3* si - lence their song (ng)

Pno. *mp*

45

S. *p* Pink as a field O - range Tall as a hay - stack

A. *mp mel., luscious* *3* Pink as a field O - range as a hill Tall as a hay - stack

T. *p* Pink field O - range as a hill Tall as a hay - stack

B. *p* Pink field O - range Tall as a hay - stack

Pno.

rall. . . . a tempo

51

mf *f*

S. Strong as a will oh Strong as a will

A. Strong as a will Strong as a will

T. Strong as a will oh Strong as a will

B. Strong as a will Strong as a will

Pno. *mf* *f*

D Even slower, sparse ♩ = 72

56

p mel. *p*

S. Meet me in win-ter Meet me in

A. win - ter snow

T. Meet me in

B.

Pno. *p*

61 *pp* *rit.*

S. snow Save me a place by the fi - re - side's

A. Save me a place by the fire - side's

T. snow Save me a place by the fi - re - side's

B. fire-side's

Pno. *pp*

66 *ppp* *a tempo* *molto rall.* . . .

S. glow.

A. glow.

T. glow.

B. glow.

Pno. *ppp* *p* *Red.* *blur* *sim.*

71 *ff* 3

S. Meet me in sun-light _____ Meet me in _____ shade _____ The

A. Meet me in sun-light _____ Meet me in _____ shade _____ The

T. Meet me in sun-light, meet me in sun-light and _____ shade _____ The

B. Meet me in sun-light, meet me in sun-light and _____ shade _____ The

Pno. *ff* 3

75 *rall.*

S. shim - mer - ing ho - ri - zon _____ shim - mer - ing ho -

A. shim - mer - ing ho - ri - zon _____ shim - mer - ing ho -

T. shim mer - ing ho - ri - zon _____ shim - mer - ing ho - ri -

B. shim - mer - ing ho - ri - zon, ho - ri - zon, shim - mer - ing ho - ri - zon _____

Pno. (RH) *ff* (LH)

(rall.)

[F] a tempo

79

S. *mf* *p* *mp*
ri - zon be-fore the light fades, be fore the light fades

A. *mf* *p* *mp*
-ri - zon be-fore the light fades, be-fore the light

T. *mf* *mp*
zon be-fore the light fades Be - fore

B. *mf* *mp*
be-fore the light fades Be - fore

Pno. *mf* *p* *mp*

85

S. *mf*
we'll fol-low the sun be-fore the light fades

A. *mf*
fades we'll fol-low the sun light fades

T. *mf*
we grow old But af - ter

B. *mf*
we grow old But af - ter

Pno. *mf*

Freely

rit.

98

S. (n)... the sun.

A. (n)... Fol - low the sun.

T. (n)... the sun.

B. (n)... Fol - low the sun.

Pno. *pp* *ppp*

Red. *blur* *sim.*

PERUSAL SCORE