

SAUNDER  
CHOI

# SURVIVING THE BLAZE

for SATB with piano

SAUNDER CHOI *music*



## PROGRAM NOTES:

When Mike and I started talking about a new commission for Macalester, it was around the time that a piece I wrote for Vox Femina - *Our Streets, A Symphony Again* - was receiving its premiere. That piece was about the city of West Hollywood "reopening" after COVID isolation and quarantine. I thought it would be a great idea to look deeper into "reopening" stories from different cities. My friend Brian Sonia-Wallace (@rentpoet), who wrote the text for *Our Streets* then introduced me to Minneapolis based poet Annette Schiebout.

*Surviving the Blaze* is about rediscovery amidst and after a time of isolation and plague - past relationships, a city one calls home, the magic of nature, the heightened need for systemic change after the murder of innocent lives... Surviving a pandemic and a major social uprising posed the questions: What are the essentials? What do we want and what else needs to be "rediscovered"?

### **Surviving the Blaze**

by Annette Schiebout

If I need to survive  
a plague that rocked the globe locked  
down loaded up  
on supplies, hoarded

fear behind hidden  
faces, zoomed in to look at  
essentials, I chose you  
to dig anxious toes out of a broken second wound

remember: the second break up, burn, then  
we stole sunsets and empty  
beaches, rocks our feet learned  
to uncover to carry to the barren

shore of distance, yet  
connection on a platform  
we walked circles around  
lakes, first swimming

tackling to the bottom  
sand stuck to feet  
then watching waves freeze until we could  
fly kites on safely

frozen we crossed over shorelines we learned  
all lives can't matter until  
we admitted some lives have mattered more

the buildings are still boarded  
remembering the hope howl full  
rage recalling havoc the glass broke  
fire blazed out the hearts  
of people we finally heard

commissioned by Macalester College for the Macalester Choirs  
Dr. Michael McGaghie, Director of Choral Activities

# Surviving the Blaze

for SATB with piano

poetry by Annette Schiebout  
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Saunder CHOI

Somewhat freely ♩ = 84

Soprano  
If I need to sur - vive a plague that rocked the

Alto  
sur - vive a plague that rocked the

Tenor  
a plague the

Bass

Piano

7 *mp* *p*

S. globe locked down, locked down load - ed up on

A. globe locked down, locked down

T. globe locked down, down

B. locked down, down

Pno. *mp*

13 **tempo non rubato** *mf*

S. sup-plies, sup-plies, hoard - ed,

A. *p* sup-plies, sup-plies, hoard - ed, *mf*

T. sup-plies, sup-plies hoard - ed, *mf*

B. sup-plies hoard - ed, *mp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

A

19

S. hoard - ed sup - plies.

A.

T. hoard - ed sup - plies.

B.

Pno.

*sub. p*

26

S. *mp* fear be - hind hid - den fa - ces, zoomed in to

A. *mp* fear be - hind hid - den fa - ces, zoomed in to

T. *mp* zoomed in

B.

Pno.

32 *mf* *poco rit.* . . . .

S. look at es - sen - tials,

A. look at es - sen - tials,

T. to es - sen - tials,

B. es - sen - tials,

Pno. *mf* *f*

**B** Intimately, blooming ♩ = 72 *p* *poco rit.* . . . . *mp*

S. I chose you, I chose you, I chose

A. I chose you, I chose you, I chose

T. I chose you, I chose you, I chose

B. I chose you, I chose

Pno. *p* *mp*

Tempo I ♩ = 84

44 *mf* *p*

S. you, I chose

A. *mf* *mp shadowing tenors* you, an - xious toes se - cond wound I chose

T. *mf* you to dig an - xious toes out of a bro - ken se - cond wound I chose

B. *mf* *p* you, I chose

Pno. *mf*

49 *mf* *mp* *poco rit.*

S. you, the se - cond break - up, burn.

A. *mf* *mp* you, burn, burn.

T. *mf* you, re - mem - ber: the se - cond break - up, burn,

B. *mf* *mp* you, burn,

Pno. *mp*

53 **C** a tempo

S. *p* I chose you, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* then we stole sun - sets and emp-ty\_ beach - es,

A. *p* I chose you, \_\_\_\_\_ you, \_\_\_\_\_

T. *p* I chose you, \_\_\_\_\_ you, \_\_\_\_\_

B. *p* I chose you, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* sun - sets, emp-ty\_ beach - es,

Pno. *p*

58

S. *mf* rocks our feet\_ learned to un - co-ver\_ to car-ry to\_ the\_

A. *mp* you, \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* you\_ to\_ car-ry to\_ the\_

T. *mp* you, \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* you, \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mf* rocks our feet\_ learned to un - co-ver you, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *mf*

63 *f* poco rall. . . . .

S. *f*  
bar-ren shore of dis - tance.

A. *f*  
bar-ren shore of dis - tance.

T. *f*  
bar-ren shore of dis - tance.

B. *f*  
— shore of dis - tance, dis - tance.

Pno.

67 a little slower ♩ = 72 *mp* D moving ahead ♩ = 84

S. *mp*  
yet, yet, con - nec-tion on a plat-form.

A. *mp*  
yet, yet, yet, yet,

T. *mp*  
yet, yet,

B. *mp*  
yet, yet, on a plat-form.

Pno. *mp* *p*

73

S. 

A. 

T. *p*  
 fear be-hind hid - den fa - ces, zoomed in\_\_\_ to look at es -

B. *p*  
 fear be-hind hid - den fa - ces, zoomed in\_\_\_ to look at es -

Pno. 

(L.H.) 

(R.H.) 

79

S. *mp*  
 we walked cir-cles a-round lakes,\_\_\_ first swim-ming\_\_\_

A. *mp*  
 we walked cir-cles a-round lakes,\_\_\_ first

T. *mp*  
 sen - tials,\_\_\_ cir - cles

B. *mp*  
 sen- tials,\_\_\_ lakes,\_\_\_

Pno. *mp* 

84

S. we walked

A. swim-ming we walked

T. tack - ling to the bot-tom sand stuck to

B. tack - ling to the bot-tom sand stuck to

Pno.

88

S. *mf* cir-cles a-round lakes *mp* then watch-ing waves\_ freeze

A. *mf* cir-cles a-round lakes *mp* then watch-ing waves\_ freeze

T. feet watch-ing waves\_

B. feet watch-ing waves,

Pno.

rall. . . . .

E Broadly ♩ = 76

92

S. *poco f* *f*  
'till we could fly kites on safe - ly,

A. *poco f* *f*  
'till we could fly kites on safe - ly,

T. *poco f* *f*  
freeze, watch - ing waves freeze 'till we could fly kites on safe - ly

B. *poco f* *f*  
watch - ing waves freeze till we could fly kites on safe - ly

Pno. *f*

96

S. fly kites on safe - ly, fly

A. fly kites on safe - ly, fly

T. fly kites on safe - ly, fly kites on safe - ly,

B. fly kites on safe - ly, fly kites on safe - ly,

Pno.

101

S. safe - ly fro - zen, fro - zen

A. safe - ly fro - zen, fro - zen

T. fro - zen, fro - zen

B. fro - zen, fro - zen,

Pno. *mp*

107 *poco rit.*

S.

A. lakes, con - nec - tion on a plat - form

T. lakes, con - nec - tion on a plat - form

B. fro - zen

Pno. *p*

**F** Intimately  $\text{♩} = 72$

*poco rit.* . . . . *a tempo, still*

112

S. *p* I chose you, *mp* we

A. *p* I chose you, *mp* I chose you,

T. *p* I chose you, *mp* I chose you,

B. *p* I chose you, *mp*

Pno. *p* *mp*

118

S. *p* crossed o - ver shore - lines we learned *mp* all lives can't mat - ter un - til *mp*  
*\*(alt text)*  
*\*heal - ing can't hap - pen*

A. *p* we learned

T. *p* shore - lines we learned,

B. *p* shore - lines we learned

Pno. *p*

124

*slowly, freely* *poco più*

S. we ad - mit - ted some lives have mat - tered more,

A. some lives have mat - tered more,

T. we ad - mit - ted some lives have mat - tered more,

B. some lives have mat - tered more,

Pno.

**G** moving ahead ♩ = 84

129

*mp* *mf*

S. all lives can't mat - ter un - til we ad - mit - ted some lives have  
*heal - ing can't hap - pen*

A. all lives can't mat - ter un - til we ad - mit - ted some lives have  
*heal - ing can't hap - pen*

T. some lives have mat - tered more, we learned all lives can't  
*heal - ing can't*

B. some lives have mat - tered more, we learned all lives can't  
*heal - ing can't*

Pno.

134

S. *poco f* mat - tered more, we learned. *rit.*

A. *poco f* mat - tered more, we learned.

T. *poco f* mat - ter un - til we ad - mit - ted some lives have mat - tered  
*hap - pen*

B. *poco f* mat - ter un - til we ad - mit - ted some lives have mat - tered  
*hap - pen*

Pno. *poco f*

139

S. *p* hushed  $\text{♩} = 72$  the build - ings are still board - ed re - mem - b'ring,

A. *p* the build - ings are still board - ed re - mem - b'ring,

T. *pp* more.

B. *pp* more.

Pno. *p*

146

rit. . . . . freely

*p*

S. re - mem - b'ring the hope howl full

A. re - mem - b'ring the hope howl full

T.

B.

Pno.

**H** Slower, heartfelt ♩ = 54

154

*fp*

S. rage re - calling ha - voc

A. rage blazed out the hearts of peo - ple we fi - nal ly heard blazed out the hearts of

T. blazed out the hearts of peo - ple we fi - nal ly heard blazed out the hearts of

B. blazed out the hearts of peo - ple we fi - nal ly heard blazed out the hearts of

Pno.

157

S. *poco f*  
the glass broke fire the

A. *p*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of

T. *p*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of

B. *p*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of

Pno. *mf*

159

S. *mf*  
glass broke fire the hope

A. *poco f*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of peo - ple we fi - nal - ly

T. *poco f*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of peo - ple

B. *poco f*  
peo - ple we fi - nal - ly heard blazed out the hearts of peo - ple

Pno. *poco f*

162 *mp* *rit.* *pp*

S. *mp* *pp*  
howl fire

A. *pp*  
heard blazed out the hearts

T. *pp*  
blazed out the hearts

B. *pp*  
blazed out the hearts

Pno. *mp* *pp*