

004.40

SHARA NOVA

I Have Never Loved
Someone (The Way I
Love You)

For SSAA choir

Blue Sword Publishing

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Music and Lyrics by
Shara Nova, 2010
Arr. Nate Thatcher, 2021/24
Engraving by J. Clay Gonzalez

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I Have Never Loved Someone (The Way I Love You)

for SSAA Choir

Shara Nova, 2010 — arr. Nate Thatcher 2021/24 — Duration ca. 3'10"

Lyrics

I have never loved someone the way I love you
I have never seen a smile like yours
And if you grow up to be king or clown or pauper
I will say you are my favorite one in town

I have never held a hand so soft and sacred
When I hear you laugh I know heaven's key
And when I grow to be a poppy in the graveyard,
I will send you all my love upon the breeze

And if the breeze won't blow your way, I will be the
sun
And if the sun won't shine your way, I will be the rain
And if the rain won't wash away all your aches and
pains
I will find some other way to tell you you're okay

You're okay
You're okay
You're okay
You're okay
You're okay
You're okay

Editions

- [004.10] I Have Never Loved Someone, SATB
- [004.20] I Have Never Loved Someone, Guitar (drop D, notation) and Voice
- [004.21] I Have Never Loved Someone, Guitar (drop D, tabs) and Voice
- [004.22] I Have Never Loved Someone, Piano or Harp and Voice
- [004.30] I Have Never Loved Someone, Voice, Strings, Piano, and Percussion
- [004.40] I Have Never Loved Someone, SSAA**

Program note

"I Have Never Loved Someone (The Way I Love You)" is a song about the transcendent power of unconditional love.

"Six months after my son was born, my maternal grandmother transitioned from this life," the composer writes about the song's inception. "I was not only feeling love for my child, but my grandmother's love for me."

Nova's specific experiences inform this meditation on "a universal love, love independent of circumstance." She imagines love like light from the Sun—perpetually shining on the Earth, whether the skies down here be clear, or cloudy.

"I Have Never Loved..." is one of the Shara Nova's most performed and beloved songs, and has appeared as the emotional centerpiece of dozens of My Brightest Diamond concerts since its composition in 2010. The song, dedicated to her son, depicts unyielding love with both clarity and a characteristic lyrical vividness.

Over the years, many have connected with the song's depiction of the emotions that anchor life's core relationships. This arrangement gives choral ensembles the opportunity to share this simple yet powerful tune with their audiences, and with each other.

Speaking of the emotional truths behind the song, Nova writes: "There is so much suffering in this life, and I hope this song helps you feel comforted in this experience on Earth. May you know that it is okay to feel a lot, and that you are part of a big universe who's essence, I believe, is love itself."

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

The image displays a musical score for four vocal parts: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, and Alto 2. Each part is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef. The notes are as follows:

- Soprano 1:** A half note on G4, followed by a slur over two eighth notes: A4 and B4.
- Soprano 2:** A half note on G4, followed by a slur over two eighth notes: A4 and B4.
- Alto 1:** A half note on E4, followed by a slur over two eighth notes: F4 and G4.
- Alto 2:** A half note on E4, followed by a slur over two eighth notes: F4 and G4.

Dedicated to Constantine

I Have Never Loved Someone (The Way I Love You)

For SSAA Choir

SHARA NOVA

SHARA NOVA (2010)

ARR. NATE THATCHER (2021/24)

Rubato, ♩ = 60

pp

p

S1
Ng oh

S2
pp *p*
Ng

A1
mp dolce
I have nev-er loved some-one the way I love you, I have

A2
pp *p* *pp* *p*
Ng Oh

4

S1
oo oh oh

S2
oh oo *mp* And if you grow up to be king or clown or pau - per, I will

S1
mp nev-er seen a smile like yours, And if you grow up to be king or clown or pau - per,

S2
oh oo oh oh

A

8

S1
oh oo oo

S2
say you are my fav'-rite one in town. oo

S1
pp oh oo *mp* I have nev-er held a hand so soft and sa - cred, When I

S2
oh oo oo

12 *mp*
S1
laugh I know heav-en's key, And when I grow to be a pop-py in the

S2
oo oh ah grow to be a pop-py in the

S1
hear you laugh I know heav-en's key, And when I grow to be a pop-py in the

S2
oo oh ah oo

15

pp *dolce* *mp* **B**

S1
grave-yard, I will send you all my love up-on the breeze. And if the breeze won't

S2
grave-yard, I will send you all my love up-on the breeze. oh

S1
grave-yard, I will send you all my love up-on the breeze. oh

S2
oo up-on the breeze. oh

19

S1
blow your way, I will be the sun, And if the sun won't

S2
oh oh And if the sun won't

S1
oh And oh

S2
oh oh ah oh

23

S1 shine your way, I will be the rain, And if the rain won't wash a-way *f*

S2 shine your way, I will be the rain, And if the rain won't wash a-way *mp pp mp f*

S1 oh oh And oh ah *mp pp f*

S2 oh oh oh ah *mp f*

28

S1 all your aches and pains, I will find some oth - er way to tell you you're o- *mf p mp*

S2 all your aches and pains, I will find, find some oth - er way to tell you you're o- *mf p mp*

S1 all your aches and pains, I will find some oth - er way to tell you you're o- *mf p mp*

S2 ah oh ah oh oo *mf p mp*

33 *poco a poco cresc.*

S1
 kay, You're o - kay, you're o - kay, you're, you're o-kay, you're o-kay, you're o-

S2
 kay, You're o - kay, you're o - kay, you're o-kay, you're o - kay, you're o-

S1
 kay, Ah, you're o-kay, you're o - kay, you're o-

S2
 Ah, you're o - kay, ah

38 **poco rit.** **C** **a tempo**

S1
 kay, you're o - kay. Oo oh oo oo

S2
 kay, you're o - kay. Oo oo

S1
 kay, you're o - kay. Oh, oo

S2
 you're o - kay. Oo oo