

DT0110.2 | JANUARY (FROM A CALENDAR OF LIGHT)
TRUMBORE | SSAA CHORUS

JANUARY
(FROM A CALENDAR
OF LIGHT)

SSAA Chorus

Text by Barbara Crooker

daletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

JANUARY

Mornings come slowly, the sun reluctant,
its pale face scarcely warming.
We linger at coffee, watch birds at the feeder.
Their foliage is dull, muted.
The sky is barely blue.
We wrap ourselves in layers of wool, withdraw.
January's not the season of love.
Up on the hill, each black tree is etched,
clean and sharp, whittled down
to limb, branch, twig.
Glass ferns cover the windows,
their fronds blur the thin light.
And here we are, poised on the rim of the year,
every breath visible,
this icy globe turning.
The silence between us deepens,
blue as the shadows in snow.

—Barbara Crooker

PROGRAM NOTE

January depicts a stark landscape. Here, we find a world wrapped in ice, “poised on the rim of the year,” in which winter’s silence encourages stillness and introspection. This piece is excerpted from *A Calendar of Light*, a 75-minute work that takes the shape of a calendar and holds us accountable for our relationship with the earth, especially in the greater context of climate change. Ultimately, the piece calls for reflection and action.

A Calendar of Light was commissioned by The Esoterics and is dedicated, with gratitude, to its Artistic Director, Eric Banks. This work was composed in part at the Tusen Takk Foundation, with thanks to Geoffrey Peckham and Patricia Melzer for their generous support.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Whenever a glissando is marked between two notes, singers establish the note briefly, then slide to reach the next note.

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January

from *A CALENDAR OF LIGHT*
for SSAA chorus a cappella with divisi

Barbara Crooker

Dale Trumbore

Placid; restrained, with rubato; ♩ = ca. 80

The musical score is written for a four-part SSAA chorus (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Placid; restrained, with rubato' with a quarter note equal to approximately 80 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6. The second system contains measures 7 through 10. The lyrics are: 'Morn - ings come slow - ly, the oh slow - ly the oh slow - ly the'. Dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include 'slow' and 'rubato' markings. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and melodic lines in both hands.

13 *mf* *p*

S. 1 sun re - luc - tant, its pale face scarce - ly

S. 2 sun oh its pale face scarce - ly

A. 1 sun oh its pale face scarce - ly

A. 2 sun oh its pale face scarce - ly

Pno.

19 *pp* *p* *mp*

S. 1 warm - ing. slow slow

S. 2 warm - ing. slow slow

A. 1 warm-ing. slow slow

A. 2 warm - - ing. slow slow

Pno.

25

S. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *< mp*
slow We lin - ger

S. 2 *pp* *mp* *pp* *< mp*
slow We lin - ger at

A. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *< mp*
slow We lin - ger at

A. 2 *pp* *mp* *pp* *< mp*
slow We lin - ger at

Pno.

30

S. 1 *p*
— watch birds at the feed - er. Their fo - li - age is dull,

S. 2 *p*
cof - fee, watch birds at the feed - er. Their fo - li - age is dull,

A. 1 *p*
cof - fee, watch oh oh

A. 2 *p*
cof - fee, watch birds at the feed - er. oh

Pno.

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47 *mf*

S. 1 Jan - u - ar - y's not the sea - son of love of love.

S. 2 Jan - u - ar - y's not the sea - son of love love.

A. 1 Jan - u - ar - y's not the sea - son of love love.

A. 2 Jan - u - ar - y's not the sea - son of love love.

Pno.

53 *p* *mf*

S. 1 oh Up on the hill, each

S. 2 oh ah Up on the hill, each

A. 1 oh ah Up on the hill, each

A. 2 oh ah Up on the hill, each

Pno.

59 *poco rit.* *poco accel.* *In time* *p* ————— *mf*

S. 1 black tree is etched, ah whit-tled down to

S. 2 black tree is etched, clean and sharp, ah

A. 1 black tree is etched, ah ah

A. 2 black tree is etched, ah ah

Pno.

64 *p*

S. 1 limb, branch, twig. Glass ferns cov - er the win - dows, their

S. 2 branch, twig. oh their

A. 1 limb, branch, twig. oh

A. 2 limb, branch, oh Glass ferns cov - er the win - dows,

Pno.

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poco rit. *Slow; ♩ = ca. 63*

S. 1 *p* turn - - - ing. The si - lence be - tween us deep - ens, *pp*

S. 2 *p* turn - - - ing. The si - lence be - tween us deep - ens, *pp*

A. 1 *p* turn - - - ing. The si - lence be - tween us deep - ens, *pp*

A. 2 *p* turn - - - ing. The si - lence be - tween us deep - ens, *pp*

Pno. 81

S. 1 *mf* blue as the sha - dows in snow. *p* *mf*

S. 2 *mf* blue as the sha - dows in snow. *p* *mf*

A. 1 *mf* blue as the sha - dows in snow. *p* *mf*

A. 2 *mf* blue as the sha - dows in snow. *p* *mf*

Pno. 85