

DT0110.5 | MARCH (FROM A CALENDAR OF LIGHT)
TRUMBORE | SATB CHORUS

MARCH
(FROM A CALENDAR
OF LIGHT)

SATB Chorus

Text by Barbara Crooker

d'aletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

MARCH

There is no color anywhere,
in the fields, in the woods,
only the monotony
of buff and brown,
fawn and dun,
smoke, slate, steel,
and now, coming into March,
the coldest nights of the year.
But each day, we climb
a few more inches
up the ladder of light,
and grackles and redwings
return, bringing postcards
of tropical sun.

The eye of the pond widens,
and geese scribble messages
across the grey sky:
“Hold on. Hold on.
It's coming.”

—Barbara Crooker

This piece sets Crooker's poem “Almost,
But Not Quite Spring.”

PROGRAM NOTE

March may begin with a grey landscape devoid of color and hope, but as the piece progresses, we find moments of renewal. Grackles and redwings return, bringing with them light and longer days.

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.

March was originally premiered as *Almost, But Not Quite Spring* by Choral Arts Initiative; it was composed in residence at Copland House. *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.

March

from *A CALENDAR OF LIGHT*
for SATB chorus a cappella

Barbara Crooker

Dale Trumbore

Plainly and evenly; ♩ = ca. 72

Musical score for SATB chorus and piano, measures 1-5. The score is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked "Plainly and evenly; ♩ = ca. 72". The lyrics are: "There is no color anywhere, in the fields, in the woods, on - ly the mo - no - to - ny of buff and brown, Ah, buff and brown, buff and brown, buff and brown." The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with a 3-measure triplet in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical score for SATB chorus and piano, measures 6-10. The score continues from the previous page. The lyrics are: "woods, on - ly the mo - no - to - ny of buff and brown, Ah, buff and brown, buff and brown, buff and brown, buff and brown." The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *pp* (pianissimo).

10 *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*

S. fawn and dun, smoke, slate, steel,

A. fawn and dun, smoke, slate, steel,

T. fawn and dun, smoke, slate, steel, and

B. fawn and dun, smoke, slate, steel, and

Pno.

16 *pp* *poco rit.* *mp*

S. The cold - est nights of the year.

A. The cold - est nights of the year.

T. now, com - ing in - to March, the cold - est nights of the year.

B. now, com - ing in - to March, the cold - est nights

Pno.

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Here's the next page:

Slightly slower; ♩ = ca. 63

30 *f* *p* *f* *mp*

S. turn, bring-ing post-cards of a tro - pi - cal sun.

A. turn, bring-ing post-cards of a tro - pi - cal sun.

T. turn, bring-ing post-cards of a tro - pi - cal sun. The eye of the

B. turn, bring-ing post-cards of a tro - pi - cal sun. The eye of the

Pno.

35 *p* *mp*

S. and geese scrib-ble mes - sa - ges ac - ross the grey

A. and geese scrib-ble mes - sa - ges ac - ross the grey

T. pond wi - dens and geese scrib-ble mes - sa - ges ac - ross the grey

B. pond wi - dens ac - ross the grey

Pno.

poco rit. **Holding back, restrained** *rit.* **Slow**

39 *mf*, *pp* *mf*, *p* *f*

S. sky: "Hold on. Hold on. It's com - ing!"

A. sky: "Hold on. Hold on. It's com - ing!"

T. sky: "Hold on. Hold on. It's com - ing!"

B. sky: "Hold on. Hold on. It's com - ing!"

Pno.

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