

Look Out Above
GP-D026.3
SSA, piano

Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen

pdf download - \$2.15
printed - \$4.00

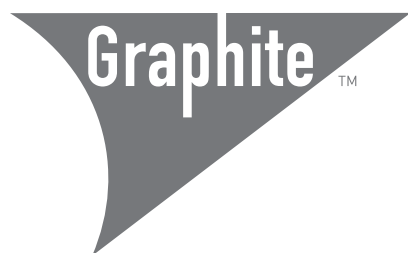


Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen

Look Out Above

for SSA choir, soloists, piano, body percussion, opt. movement

SSA arrangement commissioned by & dedicated to Marcela Molina



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Text:

We can't be stopped
they can't catch us
just like midnight on the clock:
it's all hands up--
before tick goes toc,
it's just the dust we kick up, so
look out, look out, look out
look out above
cause we're coming up
look about above
there's no stopping us
We can't be stopped....

- *Dessa*

From the Composers:

Some vocal works ask to be delivered by a perfect blend of voices: a finely tuned, powerful, unified sound. This isn't one of those pieces. Nail the timing and the pitch, but I wouldn't labor over every vowel sound--better to feel the music in your body than to look from side to side to make sure you're in musical consensus with your neighbors. The natural friction between different voices is part of what gives pop music style; it's that X-factor that tells us when a singer really means it. Don't strive to be a choir of angels on this one. Be a room full of humans.

- *Dessa (2018)*

To the Conductor:

Congratulations on your decision to program "Look Out Above" with your choir. You are officially an adventurous conductor, committed to learning and exploring a work that requires movement, improvisation, bravery, and fierce commitment.

I was lucky to workshop this piece throughout its creation with Dr. Michael McGaghie and the choir students at Macalester College in St. Paul. I tried out a bunch of new and sometimes unorthodox ideas with them. Some of them worked beautifully, while others did not. It was an incredible journey.

You are about to go on an incredible journey with your choir. Within this score you will find a basic set of

IPA Guide:

[ɑ] - car
[ɪ] - sitting
[ʌ] - cup, luck
[ɔ] - call, saw
[o] - boat
[u] - who

instructions for its performance, but I am asking you to go beyond what's written on the page. Try out your own ideas ~ improvise ~ listen to your students and allow their creativity to seep into your performance. I want to see "Look Out Above" take on the individual character of the choir that is performing it. You want to hold something a little longer? Great. You want to add more repeats? Yep. More solos? Sure! A rap? Cool. Make this piece your own. Help it live outside these pages!

Then please share it with me. I want to see your process, your performance, and anything in between. I want to cheer you on. You got this!

Twitter & Instagram: @JocelynHagenMus
Facebook: Jocelyn Hagen (composer)
jocelyn@jocelynhagen.com
www.jocelynhagen.com

To the Singers:

Dessa has written you an incredible text and an incredible hook. I hope it speaks to you. You are the next generation, and you have the ability to invent a life for yourself that you love and make the world a better place. You can't be stopped. Live the life you dream.

- *Jocelyn Hagen (2018)*

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7

Left (S1) *mf* tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA

Middle (S2) *mp* tA-kA-tA-kA-tA-kA-tA-kA *mf* speaking: Kick up

Right (A) *mp* tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA *mf* tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA

Pno. *mf*

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12

Left (S1) tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA-tI-kA

Middle (S2) Kick up We kick up We kick up

Right (A) tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA-tD-kA

Pno. *mf*

12

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A

17 *with intensity*

thigh slap (LR)

notable. elevated.

S1

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

Hu Hu Hu Hu

S2

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

Hu Hu Hu Hu

A

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

Hu Hu Hu Hu

chest thump (R hand to chest)

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17

Pno.

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

notable. elevated.

B

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thigh slap (LR)

snap

chest thump

ALL SINGERS:
melody mp light & soft

MELODY should be sung in a popular style, with narrow vowels and accented syncopations.

We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the clock it's all hands up

24

mp

Pno.

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28

S1

S2

A

— be-fore tick goes, tock it's just the dust we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up.

28

Pno.

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32

S 1

mf

thigh slap (LR)

snap

We can't be stopped

just like mid-night on the

S 2

mf

thigh slap (LR)

snap

they can't catch us

A

fp

thigh slap (LR)

chest thump (R hand to chest)

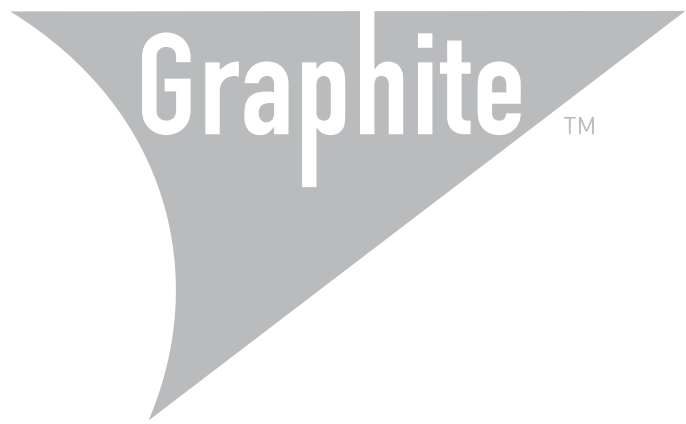
Hu

Pno.

mf

32

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35
S1 & S2 *snap*

S1
clock be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up,

S2
it's all hands up it's just the dust we kick up, we kick up, we kick up,

A *chest thump*
fp *TM* *fp*
Hu Hu

Pno.

35

39 (D) *continue with body percussion pattern through m. 50*

S1
we kick up. We can't be stopped they can't catch us just like mid-night on the

S2
we kick up. We can't be stopped We can't be

A *fp* *mf* *TM*
Hu We can't be stopped We can't

Pno.

39

6

43

S1
clock it's all— hands up be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up,—we kick up,—we kick up,

S2
stopped— be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up,—we kick up,—we kick up,

A
— be stopped We can't— be stopped it's just the dust we kick up,—we kick up,—we kick up,

Pno.

47

(E)

snap
(both fingers)

ALL:

S1
— we kick up,— we kick up. — Look out, look out, look out! —

S2
— we kick up,— we kick up. — Look out, look out, look out! —

A
— we kick up,— we kick up. — Look out, look out, look out! —

Pno.

7

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52

snap

stomp

S 1

Look out, look out, look out! — Lookout, look out, look out! — Lookout, look out, look out! —

S 2

Look out, look out, look out! — Lookout, look out, look out! — Lookout, look out, look out! —

A

p

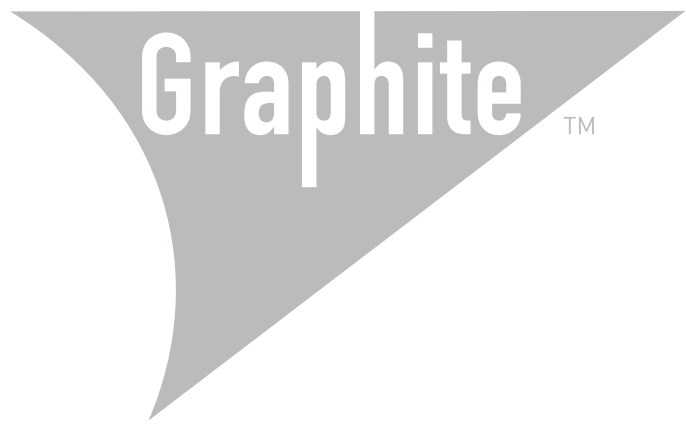
Look out, look out, look out! — Look out, look out, look out! — Look out, look out, look out! —

52

Pno.

The musical score is for the piece 'Look Out Above' by Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen. It features four vocal parts (S1, S2, A) and a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The score is in 2/4 time and the key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are 'Look out, look out, look out!' repeated three times. Performance instructions include 'snap' and 'stomp' for the vocal parts, and 'p' (piano) for the piano accompaniment. The score is marked with a large '52' at the beginning and end of the section.

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REPEAT 4-6 times, poco a poco cresc.
 Soloists begin singing on the second repeat, an improvised call and response style. Each call and response should gain in energy—ramping up. It is OK for the soloists to begin overlapping near the end. Additional soloists optional.

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The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts and lyrics:

- Solo:** *f* Look out a - bove _____
- Solo:** *f* Look out a - bove _____
- S1:** *p* Look out, look out, look out! _____
- S2:** *p* Look out, look out, look out! _____
- A:** *p* Look out, look out, look out! _____
- Pno.:** (58) [Piano accompaniment]

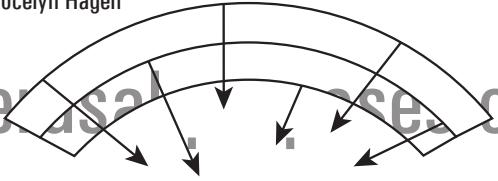
Additional performance markings include *stomp*, *snap*, and a triplet of eighth notes in the Solo part.

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G



Sopranos join soloists in front of choir.

Soloists continue through m. 69

Solo

Look out a - bove

Solo

Look out a - bove

S1

pp mp mf

S2

pp mp

A

pp mp

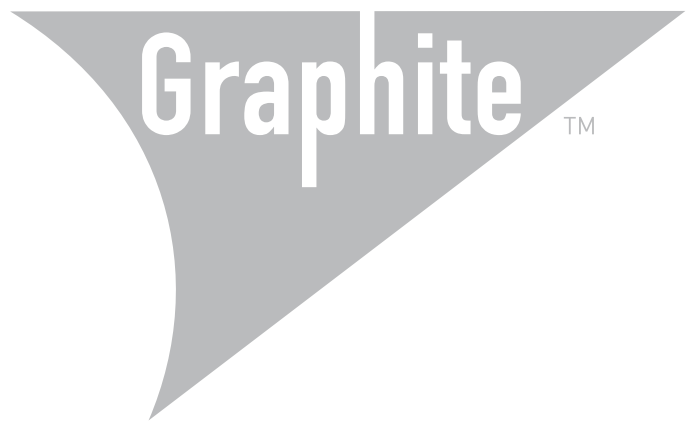
Pno.

pp mp

62

62

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I

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83

Left (S1) *mf* Kick up

Middle (S2) *mp*

Right (A)

A *mf*

Pno. *mp*

STOMPTM are steps forward into tight cluster.

notable, elevated.

88

Left (S1) Kick up

Middle (S2) *mf* *p*

S 2 *p*

Right (A) *mf* We kick up

A *stomp*

Pno. *mp*

notable, elevated.

CLUSTER POSE: singers pose in various height levels (standing, crouching, etc.). Singers should reach their pose right at Letter J.

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93 *f*

audience view

Left (S1) Look out a-bove Look out a-bove Look out a-bove

Middle (S2) tI-kA-tI - kA-tI-kA - tI-kA tI-kA-tI - kA-tI-kA - tI-kA - tI-kA-tI - kA-tI-kA - tI-kA tI-kA-tI - kA-tI-kA - tI-kA Look out a-bove

S2 *f*

Right (A) We can't be stopped We can't be stopped Look out a-bove

A

Pno.

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J

S1 *p* We can't be stopped We can't

S2 *pp* tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA - tI - kA -

A *mp light & soft* We can't be stopped they can't catch us TM just like mid-night on the clock it's all hands up

Pno. *pp*

98

110

S1 *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

— be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up. —

S2

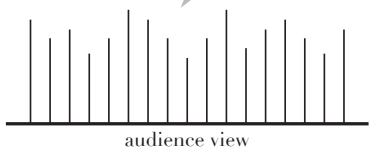
— be-fore tick goes tock it's just the dust we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up, — we kick up. —

A

tl-kA - tl-kA tl-kA-tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA - tl-kA

Pno.

110



LAST FORMATION: Singers slowly spread out and face the audience in strong stance.

L

S1

sub. p *poco a poco cresc.* *mp*

S2

sub. p *poco a poco cresc.* *mp*

A

sub. p *stomp* *poco a poco cresc.* *mp*

Pno.

p *poco a poco cresc.* *mp*

114

S1

We're com-ing up — We're com-ing up — Look out a - bove —

S2

We're com-ing up — We're com-ing up — Look out a - bove —

A

We're com-ing up — We're com-ing up — Look out a - bove —

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. all crouched singers are now standing. M

120

clap

S 1

mf

ff

Look out a - bove Look out a - bove We can't be

S 2

mf

sub. p

f

a - bove a - bove We're com-ing

A

thigh slap (LR)

mf

sub. p

f

a - bove a - bove We're com-ing

Pno.

120

mf

p

f

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Graphite TM notable. elevated.

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126 *singer choice: clap, chest thump, stomp, thigh slap*

S 1 *mp* *f* *molto* *ff*

stopped We can't be stopped!

singer choice: clap, chest thump, stomp, thigh slap

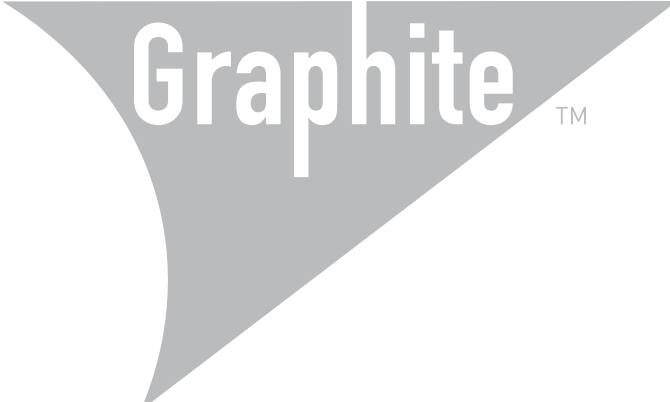
S 2 *mp* *f* *molto* *ff*

A *mp* *f* *molto* *ff*

126 *mp* *f* *ff*

Pno.

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Dessa



Dessa is a rapper, a singer, an essayist, and a proud member of the Doomtree hip-hop crew. She's performed around the world at opera houses and rock clubs and while standing on barroom tables. She's landed on the Billboard Top 200 Albums list as a solo artist (Parts of Speech, Chime), as a Doomtree member (All Hands), and as a contributor to The Hamilton Mixtape. As a writer, her work has appeared Minnesota Public Radio, in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis), *Minnesota Monthly*, and literary journals across the country. *My Own Devices*, her hardcover collection of essays, was published in 2018 by Dutton Books (Penguin Random House). Her previous collections include two short books of poetry and essays: *Spiral Bound* and *A Pound of Steam*. She now splits her time between Manhattan, Minneapolis, and a tour van cruising at six miles per hour above the posted limit.

Dessa is represented by the Frances Goldin Agency as a writer and by United Talent Agency as a performing musician.

Jocelyn Hagen

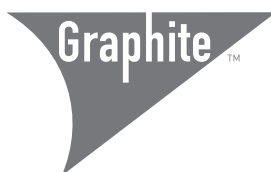


Jocelyn Hagen composes music that has been described as "simply magical" (Fanfare Magazine) and "dramatic and deeply moving" (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). She is a pioneer in the field of composition, pushing the expectations of musicians and audiences with large-scale multimedia works, electro-acoustic music, dance, opera, and publishing. Her first forays into composition were via songwriting, still very evident in her work. Her melodic music is rhythmically driven and texturally complex, rich in color and deeply heartfelt. In 2023 her opera *The Song Poet*, written with Hmong writer Kao Kalia Yang, premiered with Minnesota Opera, and sold out their run over six months prior to the premiere date. In 2019 she celebrated the premiere of her multimedia symphony *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, which includes video projections created by a team of visual artists, highlighting da Vinci's spectacular drawings, inventions, and texts. The work has already been performed over thirty times across the United States, including Sweden. Hagen describes her process of composing for choir, orchestra and film simultaneously in a Tedx Talk given at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, now available on YouTube. Hagen's commissions include *Conspirare*, the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, Voces8, the International Federation of Choral Music, *Conspirare*, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Cantus, the Boston Brass, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the St.

Olaf Band, among many others. Her work is independently published through JH Music, as well as through Graphite Publishing, G. Schirmer, EC Schirmer, Fred Bock Music Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Boosey and Hawkes.

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Dessa and Jocelyn Hagen	GP · D026	Look Out Above	SATB, a cappella, soli, body percussion
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Dale Warland	GP · W001	Always Singing	SATB (div), a cappella
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Reginal Wright	GP · W008	Life's Mirror	SATB, piano



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