

Ein Abgang von Fledermäusen  
SMezATBarB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## Ein Abgang von Fledermäusen (A Departure of Bats)

for SMezATBarB choir a cappella

Commissioned by StimmGold Vokalensemble



Timothy C Takach.com

## Text:

Nächtliche Stille!  
Helige Fülle,  
Wie von göttlichem Segen schwer,  
Säuselt aus ewiger Ferne daher.

Was da lebte,  
von allen Sterne neider.

– *Christian Friedrich Hebbel, (1813-1863)*

## Translation:

Nocturnal silence!  
Holy fullness,  
Heavy with divine blessing,  
Whispers along from eternal darkness.

What lived there,  
down from all the stars.

## From the Composer:

The Regensburg vocal ensemble StimmGold reached out to me to write a unique commission. They were looking to connect consequences of man-made climate change in the Upper Palatinate/Bavaria region on Germany with vocal works by the Upper Palatinate composer Max Reger.

For this piece, “Ein Abgand von Fledermäusen,” I focused on the decline in the bat population in Bavaria, which is due to agricultural insecticides, the refurbishment of old buildings, and windmills. They are losing about a quarter of a million bats each year. In 1911 Max Reger set Hebbel’s poem “Die Weihe der Nacht” for alto solo, TB choir and orchestra, and I chose to use a portion of this text for my piece.

The 6 voices are split into two choirs, and they sing to depict the beauty of the night, honoring the silence. The piece is roughly divided into thirds with somewhat strophic repetition, and on each repeat we hear fewer voices, suggesting the loss of these nocturnal creatures from Bavaria.

- *Timothy C. Takach (2021)*



# Ein Abgang von Fledermäusen

16

S *p* Stil - le! *mp* von al - len

Mez. *p* Stil - le! *mp* von al - len

T *p* Stil - le! *mp* von al - len

A *pp* schwer, Stil - le! *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi-ger

Bar. *pp* schwer, Stil - le! *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi-ger

B *pp* schwer, Stil - le! *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi-ger

23

S Stern - nen nie - der... *p* Stil - le! Stil - le!

Mez. Stern - nen nie - der...

T Stern - nen nie-der... *p* Stil - le! Stil - le!

A Fer-ne da - her. *p* Stil - le! *mp* Stil - le! ...was da

Bar. Fer-ne da - her. *mp* ...was da

B Fer-ne da - her.

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32 *p*

S Stil - le! Stil - le!

Mez. *p* Stil - le! Stil - le!

T *p* Stil - le! Stil - le!

A leb - te... ..was da leb - te...

Bar. leb - te...

B *mp* ...was da leb - te...

41 *mp* *pp*

S Nächt - li - che Stil - le! Stil - le!

Mez. *mp* *pp* Nächt - li - che Stil - le! Stil - le!

T *mp* *pp* Nächt - li - che Stil - le! Stil - le!

A *mf* *p* *pp* Und von al - len Stern - nen nie - der... Stil -

Bar. *mf* *p* *pp* Und von al - len Stern - nen nie - der... Stil -

B *mf* *p* *pp* Und von al - len Stern - nen nie - der... Stil -

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47

S *mf* von al - len Stern - nen nie - der... *mp* Stil - le!

Mez. *mf* von al - len Stern - nen nie - der...

T *mf* von al - len Stern - nen nie - der... Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

A *mp* - le! *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

Bar. *mp* - le! *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

B - le!

55

S *p* Stil - le! *p* Stil - le! Stil -

Mez. *p* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her.

T *p* Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her.

A *p* Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her.

Bar. *p* Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her.

B

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63

S le!

Mez. Stil - le! Stil - le!

T 8 Stil le! Stil - le!

A ...was da leb - te...

Bar. ...was da leb - te...

B

74

S *mp* Nächt - li - che Stil - le! *p* Stil - le! \_\_\_\_\_

Mez. *mp* Nächt - li - che Stil - le! *p* Stil - le! \_\_\_\_\_

T 8 *mp* Nächt - li - che Stil - le! *p* Stil - le! \_\_\_\_\_

A *p* Stil - le!

Bar. *p* Stil - le!

B *p* Stil - le!

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81

S *mp* Stil - le!

Mez. *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *mp*

T *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

A *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

Bar. *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *mp* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger

B *mf* Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *mp*

88

S *mp* Stil - le! *mp* Stil - le!

Mez. *p* Säu - selt

T Fer - ne da - her. *p* Säu - selt

A Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her.

Bar. Fer - ne da - her. Säu - selt aus e - wi - ger Fer - ne da - her. *p* Säu - selt

B

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96

S *p* Nächt - li-che Stül - le! *mp* Stül - le!

Mez. e - wi-ger *mp* Stül - le!

T e - wi-ger *mp* Stül - le!

A Nächt - li-che Stül - le!

Bar. e - wi-ger

B *p* Nächt - li-che Stül - le!

103

S *p* Stül - le! *pp* Stül - le!

Mez. *p* Stül - le! *pp* Stül - le!

T *p* Stül - le! *pp* Stül - le!

A

Bar. *mp* ...was da leb - te...

B

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Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach is a mainstay in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Lorelei Ensemble, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach is a co-creator of the theatrical production of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein, and won the 2024 Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize for *Computing Venus* with librettist Caitlin Vincent.

Takach's a cappella choral symphony *Helios* is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 the James Sewell Ballet premiered his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* in St. Paul, MN. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

## Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

### Mixed Voices

|  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| A Worshipper and a Man                 |                       | SATB a cappella                                |
| And I Saw                              |                       | SATB div. a cappella                           |
| As the Sunflower Turns on Her God      |                       | SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella |
| Crossroads                             |                       | SATB, piano                                    |
| The Darkling Thrush                    | (earthsongs)          | SATB, SAT soli, a cappella                     |
| Even in My Time                        |                       | 3-part treble, piano                           |
| Fragile                                |                       | SATB, hand drum                                |
| Joseph                                 |                       | SATB a cappella                                |
| Mantra                                 | (Graphite Publishing) | SATB, piano                                    |
| MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change     |                       | SATB, piano                                    |
| MOMENTS IN FILM: Insidious             |                       | SATB, piano                                    |
| MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo           |                       | SATB, piano                                    |
| Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers | (Graphite Publishing) | SSATBB a cappella                              |
| One Boy Told Me                        |                       | SATB, piano                                    |

### Treble Voices

|                            |                       |                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| And I Saw                  |                       | SSAA div. a cappella      |
| Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay  |                       | 2-part, piano             |
| Cassiopeia                 |                       | SSA a cappella            |
| How to Triumph Like a Girl | (Graphite Publishing) | SSA, piano                |
| There is No Rose           | (Lorelei Ensemble)    | SSAA, SS soli, a cappella |
| Together, Unafraid         |                       | SSA, piano                |
| She Tore a Map             | (Graphite Publishing) | SA, piano                 |

### TB Voices

|                  |                       |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Empty            |                       | TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe |
| Every Fire       |                       | TTBB, piano                       |
| Goodbye, Then    |                       | TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano     |
| Kin              |                       | TB, piano                         |
| Mad              |                       | TB, piano                         |
| Original Harmony | (Colla Voce)          | TTBB a cappella                   |
| Rough Beast      |                       | TTBB, percussion                  |
| Salve Regina     | (Graphite Publishing) | TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella  |

### Large Works

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| At Home (ca. 15')  |  | SATB, flute, clarinet                             |
| Born For This (ca. 16')                                    |  | SATB and piano, chamber ensemble, or concert band |
| Changed by Beauty (ca. 18')                                |  | SATB, cello                                       |
| Helios (ca. 65')   |  | SATB a cappella                                   |
| The Longest Nights (ca. 21')                               |  | SATB, piano or string quartet                     |
| This is How You Love (ca. 35') composed with Jocelyn Hagen |  | SATB div. a cappella                              |
| True North (ca. 16')                                       |  | SATB, chamber orchestra                           |
| Unfashioned Creature (ca. 41') a ballet                    |  | SATB, cello, percussion, dancers                  |
| We, the Unknown (ca. 40')                                  |  | TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra                 |

