

I am Growing Flowers
SSATB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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I am Growing Flowers

for a cappella SSATB choir

Commissioned by VocalEssence in
Minneapolis in honor of Philip Brunelle's
steadfast commitment
to new music.

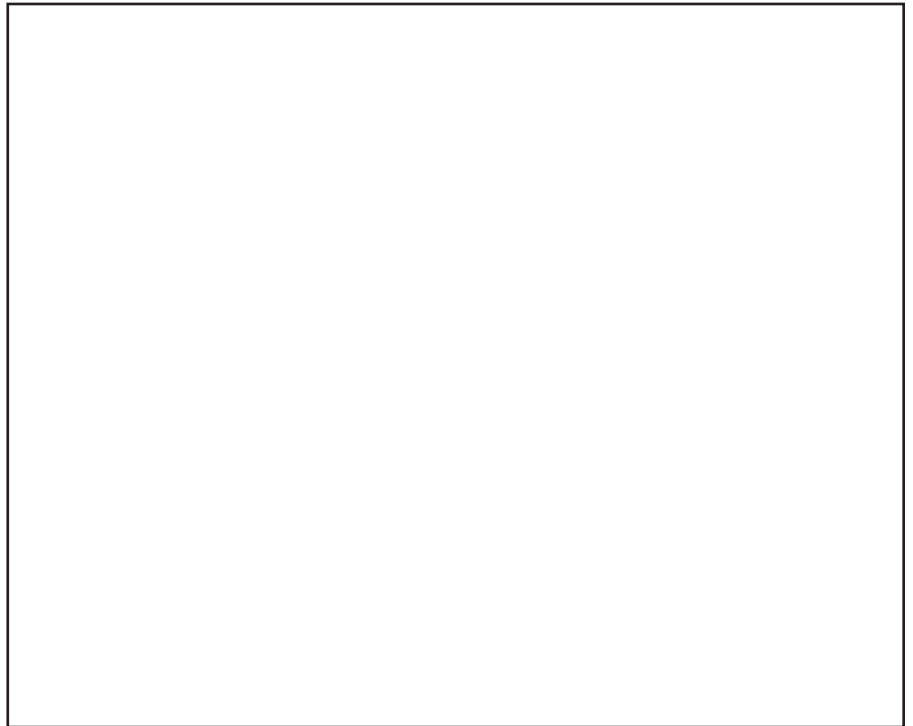


Text:

I am growing flowers
in the darkest part of my heart
for if light ever enters
it would know where to start

- *Noor Unnahar, used with permission*

Draw your own heart-flower here..



The Poet:



Hailing from the city of Karachi, **Noor Unnahar** is a pioneering creative voice associated with the international publication and social media industry with over 6 years of experience. She received her BFA from the esteemed institution of Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in 2022, where she was the

recipient of Dr. Salim Uz Zaman award for the best Final Research Paper for her undergrad research. Her work has been recognized globally and continues to grow across the continents. Her poetry has been translated into a number of languages, which include published translations of her debut collection *Yesterday I Was the Moon* (Penguin Random House, 2018) in Dutch (*Gisteren Was Ik De Maan*, MUSE, 2019) and Chinese (Pan Press, 2021). Her latest collection of poetry *New Names for Lost Things* was published in October 2021 by Andrews McMeel and continues to bring raving reviews from readers around the world. A number of poems from *New Names for Lost Things* have been translated into Albanian and published in PEN International (Kosovo) magazine (JUNE 2022).

From the Composer:

A tiny poem—just a few lines—yet it holds within it such profound hope and resilience. As individuals, as communities, as a nation, we all endure seasons of darkness. And as a Minnesotan, I know winter well. It seems that if we hunker down and gather our lives a little closer—loved ones, pets, blankets—we may emerge, after a time, unscathed and ready for whatever comes next. Within each of us, there are quiet, hidden spaces—places of nourishment and possibility—where hope takes root. And perhaps, on the other side of darkness, something luminous awaits.

The music unfolds in a quasi-round between the voices. While not a true round, I shaped moments that break the form open, allowing for greater expression and deliberate contouring. The overlapping entrances and recurring motifs create a sense of familiarity, giving the piece a meditative quality. And when the climax arrives, it emerges in striking contrast to what came before, like light breaking through shadow.

Find a small, quiet place in your heart. Plant flowers. Hold onto hope. Nurture beauty. Show the light where to start.

- *Timothy C. Takach, 2025*

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I am Growing Flowers

Noor Unnahr

for SSATB a cappella

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mp $\text{♩} = 76$

Soprano
I am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing

Alto
I am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing

Tenor
pp
I am grow - ing flow - ers

Bass
pp
I am grow - ing flow - ers

Piano

This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Soprano and Alto parts begin with the lyrics 'I am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing'. The Tenor and Bass parts enter later with the lyrics 'I am grow - ing flow - ers'. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation. A large watermark 'Do not use, copy, or distribute.' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

6 Timothy C Takach.com *mf*

1
flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing

2
flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart

flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart

I am grow - ing flow - ers grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing

I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing

This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 6. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Soprano and Alto parts continue with the lyrics 'flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing'. The Tenor and Bass parts continue with the lyrics 'I am grow - ing flow - ers grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing'. The piano accompaniment continues. A large watermark 'Do not use, copy, or distribute.' is overlaid diagonally across the score.



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10

1 flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart am grow - ing

2

mf

am grow - ing

p

- - ing flow - ers. I am grow - - ing flow - ers. I am grow - -

grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing, grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - - ing,



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14

1 flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart in the dark - - est

2

mf

am grow - ing

mp

- - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow -

grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - - ing, grow - ing flow - - ers. I am grow - - ing,

18

1 part of my heart I am grow - ing,

2 flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart in the dark - est

flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing

- - ing flow - ers. I am grow - - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing

grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - - ing, grow - ing flow - - ers.

p

mf



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22

1 grow - ing flow - ers. I am grow - ing, grow - ing flow - - ers I am grow - - ing,

2 part of my heart I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing,

flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart in the dark - est

flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart I am grow - ing

I am grow - ing

p

mf



26

1
grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing, grow - ing flow - ers

2
grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing, grow - ing flow - ers

part of my heart in the dark - est part of my
flowers in the dark - est part of my heart in the dark - est part of my
flowers in the dark - est part of my heart in the dark - est

31

1
I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers

2
I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers

heart, of my heart I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing
heart in the dark - est part of my
part of my heart in the dark - - est

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35

1 *un. p mp mp*
 — grow - ing — flow - ers — for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to

2 *un. p mp mp*
 flow - ers — for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to

p mp
 flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers for if light ev - er en - ters — it would know where to

p mp
 heart, in my heart — for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to —

p mp
 part of my heart — for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to



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40

mf f div. ff
 start for if light ev - er en - ters — it would know — where to start, where to start

mf f ff
 start for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to start, where to start

mf ff f
 start for if light ev - er en - ters — it would know where to start — I —

mf ff f
 start — light ev - er en - ters it would know where to start — I —

46 unis. *f*

I am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart

I am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark est part of my heart

am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark est part of my heart for if

am grow - ing flow - ers in the dark - est part of my heart for if

50 *mp*

for if light en - ters it would know where to start

for if light ev - er en - ters it would know where to I am grow - ing

light ev - er en - ters it would know where to start *mp*

light ev - er en - ters it would know where to start *mf*

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54 *mf*

I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____

flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing _____

mf

I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am _____

mf

I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____ I am grow-ing flow - ers _____

58 *no ritard*

I am grow - ing flow - ers _____ I am grow - ing flow - ers _____

flow - ers _____ I am grow - ing _____ grow - ing I am grow - ing flow - ers _____

grow - ing flow - ers _____ I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers _____

I am grow - ing flow - ers _____ I am grow - ing flow - ers I am grow - ing flow - ers _____



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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