

Hands Upon the Plow
SSA, piano, opt. alto sax
JH - C042

Jocelyn Hagen

pdf - \$2.15
printed - \$3.95

Hands Upon the Plow

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SSA choir, piano, opt. alto sax solo



jh

jh music

Hands upon the Plow

for Alice Paul

She likened our Movement
to mosaic tiles: more vibrant
and stronger when linked
by the mortar of women,
our undaunted will.

She placed trembling hands
upon the true plow,
told us not to let go,
to push hard till we reached
the end of each row.

She claimed *No New Worlds*
without female power—
peace, progress, discovery all grow
in our hearts, our wise voices,
our votes.

~ Barbara Saxton (2019)

Hands Upon the Plow

SSA choir, piano, & optional alto saxophone solo

Text by: Barbara Saxton

Jocelyn Hagen

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Confident & Powerful ♩ = 120

Swing!

mf smooth LH, accenting syncopations

Musical score for piano introduction in 3/4 time, featuring a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

8 *mf* *Unison*

(SSA split) She lik - ened our Move - ment to mo - sa - ic tiles:

Musical score for the first vocal line, marked *mf* and *Unison*. The piano accompaniment continues with the same pattern as the introduction.

15

more vi - brant and strong - er when linked

f *mf*

Musical score for the second vocal line, starting at measure 15. The piano accompaniment features a triplet in the bass line.

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22

S

p

by the mor - tar of wom - en, _____

p legato

29

S

our un - daunt - ed will. _____ more vi - brant and strong -

mp

S

our un - daunt - ed will. _____ more vi - brant and strong -

mp

A

our un - daunt - ed will. _____ more vi - brant and strong -

mp

29

mp

36 *f*

S - er - strong - er when linked

S - er strong er when linked

A - er strong - er when linked

36 *mf* *f*

42 *mf* *Unison*

S (SSA split) She - She placed trem-bling hands up - on the true plow,

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49 *f*

S told us not to let go,

S told us not to let go,

A told us not to let go,

49 *f*

56 *mp*

S to push hard till we reached the

S to push hard till we reached the

A to push hard till we reached the

56 *p legato*

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63

S *mf*
end of each row. told us not to let go, don't let

S *mf*
end of each row. told us not to let go, don't let

A *mf*
end of each row. told us not to let go, don't let

63

70

S *f*
go! go!

S *f*
go! go!

A *f*
go! go!

70

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77 *mf* *f*

S Oh! Oh!

S Oh! Oh!

A Oh! Oh!

77 *mp* *f*

84 *mf* *f*

S *mf* *f*

S *mf* *f*

A *mf* *f*

84 *mp* *mf*

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6

90 *Optional: Improvised Alto Saxophone solo & repeats*

S

S

A

90 *riffing (with optional improvisation)*

f

dm C9 Bb9

96

S

S

A

f

f

f

She claimed No New Worlds with-out fe-male pow-er

She claimed No New Worlds with-out fe-male pow-er

She claimed No New Worlds with-out fe-male pow-er

96

f

A6

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103

S *sempre f* peace, pro - gress, _____

S *sempre f* peace, pro - gress, _____

A *sempre f* peace, pro - gress, _____

103

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110

S dis - cov - er - y all grow _____ in our hearts, _____

S dis - cov - er - y all grow _____ in our hearts, _____

A dis - cov - er - y all grow _____ in our hearts, _____

110

116

S *mf*
our wise — voic - es, — our —

S *mf*
our wise — voic - es, — our —

A *mf*
our wise — voic - es, — our —

116

mf

122

S *f*
votes. — votes. — votes. —

S *f* *mf*
votes. — votes. — votes. — in our

A *f* *mf*
votes. — votes. — votes. — in our

122

f *mf*

Optional: Alto Saxophone joins again riffing between phrases

A G9 F9

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127 *mf*

S our — wise — voic - es, — voic - es, —

S hearts, — our hearts, — voic - es, —

A hearts, — our hearts, — voic - es, —

127

G9 B A#11

133 *f* *rit.*

S our — votes. —

S our — votes. —

A our — votes. —

133 *f* *rit.*

B bm9 E9

$\text{♩} = 88$
ff

138

S

VOTE!

ff

S

VOTE!

A

ff

VOTE!

138

ff

B

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An excerpt from "Sisters are Life Partners, Too" from Jocelyn Hagen's opera *The Song Poet*

The Song Poet / Sisters are Life Partners, Too / Hagen / Yang

39 **Dawb:** Remember when I went to the mall and bought you your very first diamond, so tiny but glittery it danced on your finger, because I said you should get the very best of what we could afford?

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45 **Kalia:** Remember when you all left me at college with a cardboard box in my hands, and later in my room, I opened up a laptop that had taken all of Mom and Dad's savings to buy?

50 **Dawb:** I remember when you were first born and Dad said to me that when all is said and done, when the lovers and friends have come and gone, we will share more of each other's lives than with anyone else.

C A little slower ♩ = 100

S **Kalia:** *mp*
Viv ncaus thiab yog khub ua neej thi-

A **Dawb:** *mp*
Viv ncaus thiab yog khub ua neej thi-
Sisters are life partners, too.

Dawb: Sisters are life partners, too.

55

An excerpt from "Sisters are Life Partners, Too" from Jocelyn Hagen's opera *The Song Poet*

The Song Poet / Sisters are Life Partners, Too / Hagen / Yang

61 **D** *mf*

S *ab.* _____ *mf* When we were small, And the cold came through the walls, _____

A *ab.* _____ *mf* When we were small, And the cold came through the walls, _____

61 *mp*

66

S _____ Our feet rest-ed side by side, We shared our bo-dies' heat. _____

A _____ Our feet rest-ed side by side, We shared our bo-dies' heat. _____

66 *mf* *mp*

E

mf *f* *p*



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 and opera. Her first forays into composition were via songwriting, still very evident in her work. The majority of her compositions are for the voice: solo, chamber and choral. 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 fifty times across the United States, including Canada, Sweden, Croatia, and England. 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 Voces8, Conspirare, the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, the International Federation of Choral Music, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, the

American Choral Directors Associations of Minnesota, Georgia, Connecticut and Texas, the North Dakota Music Teachers Association, 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.

Find out more at JocelynHagen.com

Independently published choral works by Jocelyn Hagen:

Controlled Burn	SSA choir, string quartet/chamber ensemble
Forgotten	SSA choir, oboe, piano
Hands	SSAA a cappella choir, 2 soloists
Hands Upon the Plow	SSA choir, piano, optional alto sax
Heart of Gold	SSAA a cappella choir
How Do We Know the Light Will Come Back?	SSAA choir, piano
I Count It All Joy	SSA choir, violin, harp, piano
I Started Out Singing	3-part treble choir, piano/string orchestra
In the Lavender Stillness of Dawn	SSA choir, violin, cello, piano
Joy	SSA choir, piano
Look Out Above	SSAA a cappella choir, soloists, body percussion
Look Out Above	SSA choir, soloists, piano, body percussion
Moon Goddess	SSA choir, 4-hand piano, percussion
my mother named me light	SSAA chorus, SSAA semi-chorus, 4 percussionists
Ode to My Earrings	SSA choir, harp
On My Dreams	SSAA div. choir, piano, opt. trap set
One Step	SSAA choir, piano, body percussion
Open Road	SSA choir, piano
Prayer	SA div. choir, violin and piano
Self Talk	SSA choir, piano
Sisters Are Life Partners, Too	SA choir, piano
Salve, Regina	SSA a cappella choir
Song in My Heart	SSA choir, piano
Starting Now	SSAA choir, piano
This Sky Falls	SA choir, piano
Two Lullabies	SSA choir, piano
Under the Stars One Holy Night	SSA choir, 2-part treble choir, 2 C instruments, piano
We Are Here to Shine	SSAA div. A cappella choir
While I Breathe, I Hope	SSA choir, piano

Extended works for treble chorus:

Flight (15')	SSA choir, flute, cello, percussion, piano
How to Survive Winter (17')	SSAA choir, string quartet
We Are the Garden (20')	SSAA choir, cello, piano, percussion