

What Sweet Love
SSA, piano
JH - GRL43.2

arr. Patti Arntz

pdf - \$1.95
printed - \$3.75

What Sweet Love

Slovakian Folk Song, arr. Patti Arntz

for SSA choir and piano



COMPOSE
LIKE A GIRL

Illustration: KT Thompson

jh music

Text:

'Neath the moon's soft gentle light,
our eyes met as strangers in the night.
Hearts spoke words we could not say,
a hopeful promise comes our way.

Whispered dreams and tender glance,
now the slow and secret dance.
What sweet love with breathless sighs
the gaze reflected in our eyes.

Gently sway a step in time,
the sparks ignite in rhythm sublime.
What sweet dreams our hearts take flight,
two souls dancing through the night.

Clouds of darkness now appeared,
our hearts once brave now filled with tears.
Love we thought would never fade
ever lost and feeling afraid.

Through the storm we found the sun,
love's embrace, our hearts are one.
What sweet love 'tis clearer still,
surrounded by love's will.
- trad. Slovak, adapt. Arntz

From the Composer:

Recently as I was visiting the city of Prague in the Czech Republic, I went in search of a collection of Czech and Slovakian folk tunes. When traveling, I often look for songbooks from foreign countries. Browsing through a few Czech/Slovakian songbooks, I came across one folk song that stood out with its combination of a beautiful melody, an interesting chord progression and a timeless story of young love.

The original Slovakian lyrics were about a young couple meeting for the first time. I expanded the lyrics to create a love story and the ups and downs of their courtship. Wanting to be inclusive of all love stories, there is no reference to gender.

Although I began with the SATB arrangement, with Jocelyn's encouragement, I arranged "What Sweet Love" for SSA and TTB, thinking that singers in high school might benefit from experiencing the emotions of first love. It's a story that will resonate with singers of all ages. Whatever arrangement you might decide to sing, be sure to allow yourself to be drawn into the story and sing it with heartfelt emotion.

- Patti Arntz



Patti Arntz has been a music educator and church musician in the Twin Cities area for over 40 years. She has degrees in music from Hamline University, St. Paul, MN and Drake University, Des Moines, IA and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

She recently retired from teaching elementary music with the Robbinsdale Area Schools in the Twin Cities. During her 30 years of instructing young children to sing and make music, she also directed the Robbinsdale All-District Elementary Honors Choir for 15 years. Throughout her teaching career, she served as an organist and director of youth/adult choirs in local churches.

In 2003, Patti was contacted by St. Olaf College to see if she would take a student teacher. The answer was yes, of course. That student teacher was Jocelyn Hagen. The favor was returned when Jocelyn served as a mentor for Patti's compositions and arrangements.

In 2010, Patti commissioned Jocelyn to compose a children's choir piece in memory of Teresa Benjamin, Assistant Director of the Robbinsdale Elementary Honor Choir. Teresa passed away in the spring of 2003. This composition, "I Started Out Singing," has become very popular in recent years.

Keeping in touch with her elementary music roots, she serves as an online adjunct professor at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota, instructing elementary education majors on teaching and integrating music into their future classrooms. Continuing the concept of core subject integration with music, she has recently been writing curriculum for the Minnesota Orchestra's Young People's Concerts.

Patti lives in the Twin Cities area with her husband, Rolland, where she enjoys outdoor activities, traveling and cooking. She sings with Singers in Accord and is a charter member of the choir. Her adult children, Kyle and Melani are both very involved in music in the Twin Cities area.

Dedicated to Don Bulfer, my choir director at Southwest Jr High School in Minneapolis,
for inspiring a life-long love of choral music.

What Sweet Love

SSA choir and piano

Traditional Slovak
adapted by Patti Arntz

Slovakian Folk Song
arr. Patti Arntz

Do not photocopy. For perusal only.

♩ = 104

Piano *mf*

pedal harmonically

Do not photocopy. For perusal only.

5 *mp*

S1 'Neath the moon's soft gen - tle light, our eyes met as stran - gers in the night. Hearts spoke words we

S2 Our eyes met as stran - gers in the night. Hearts spoke words we

A Hearts spoke words we

mp

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jh music

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Check out the Compose Like A Girl Podcast! Listen to Jocelyn Hagen interview incredible female-identifying composers about their process, finding artistic truth, and leading with curiosity. These inspirational interviews are complemented by excellent recordings.



10

S1
could not say, a hope - ful pro - mise comes our way.

S2
could not say, a hope - ful pro - mise comes our way.

A
could not say, a hope - ful pro - mise comes our way.

joceelyn chagen

tenderly

15

S1
p
Whis - pered dreams and ten - der glance, now the slow and

S2
p
Whis - pered dreams and ten - der glance, now the slow and

A
p
Dreams and ten - der glance, for now the slow and

20 *mp*

S1 se - cret dance. What sweet love with breath - less sighs the gaze re - flec - ted in our

S2 se - cret dance. What sweet love with breath - less sighs the gaze re - flec - ted in our

A se - cret dance. What sweet love with breath - less sighs the gaze in our

joce lyn Chagen

24 ♩ = 132

S1 eyes.

S2 eyes.

A eyes.

(play) *mp* *mf* *f*

dancing

29 *mp*

S1 Gen - tly sway a step in time, the sparks ig - nite in rhy - thm sub - lime.

S2 *mp* Gen - tly sway a step in time, sparks ig - nite in rhy - thm sub - lime.

A *mp* The sparks ig - nite in rhy - thm sub - lime.

mp

joceelyn chagen

33 *mf* *f* *rit.*

S1 What sweet dreams our hearts take flight, two souls dan - cing through the

S2 *mf* *f* What sweet dreams our hearts take flight, two souls dan - cing through the

A *mf* *f* What sweet dreams our hearts take flight, souls dan - cing through the

mf *f*

37 $\text{♩} = 104$
mp

S1 night.

S2 night.

A night.

mp

mf

joceelyn chagen

42 *firm* $\text{♩} = 92$
f

S1 Clouds of dark - ness now__ ap - peared, our hearts once brave now filled__ with tears.

S2 Clouds of dark - ness now__ ap - peared, our hearts once brave now filled__ with tears.

A Clouds of dark - ness now__ ap - peared, our hearts once brave now filled with tears.

f

46 *lovingly* *mp* *mf* *mp* *accel.*

S1 Love we thought would ne - ver fade lost feel - ing a - fraid.

S2 Love we thought would ne - ver fade lost feel - ing a - fraid.

A Love we thought would ne - ver fade ev - er lost and feel - ing a - fraid.

mp *mf* *mp*

♩ = 104

50 *broaden*

54 *f* *f* *f*

S1 Through the storm we found the sun, love's em - brace, our hearts are one.

S2 Through the storm we found the sun, love's em - brace, our hearts are one.

A Through the storm we found the sun, love's em - brace, our hearts are one.

58 *mf* *f*

S1 Ah

S2 *mf* *f*

A *mf* *f*

What sweet love 'tis clear - er still, sur - round - ed by love's will.

What sweet love 'tis clear er still, sur - round - ed by love's will.

joce lyn Chagen

62 *mf* *rit.* *f*

S1 Ah Ah Ah Ah

S2 *f* *ff*

A *f* *ff*

What sweet love 'tis clear - er still, sur - roun - ded by love's will.

What sweet love 'tis clear - er still, sur - roun - ded by love's will.

Another great piece from the Compose Like a Girl Choral Series

Amelia Ouverson

A Departing Blessing

JH-GRL09

15

S God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

A God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.



19 *tutti* stagger breathe *p*

S Ah

A *tutti* stagger breathe *p* Ah

T *mf* You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

B *mf* You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

19 You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with



25

S As path leads on to

A As path leads on to

T God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

B God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

25 God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to



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Amelia Ouverson

A Departing Blessing

JH-GRL09

30

mp *rit.*

S fur - ther path, be - yond the world you've known, may God re - store your

A fur - ther path, be - yond the world you've known, may God re - store your

T fur - ther path, the world you've, oh the world you've known, Oh

B fur - ther path, the world you've, oh the world you've known, Oh

30

34

mf *a tempo*

Vln. seamless stagger breathe

S cloud-ing eyes to show you how you've grown. Oh stagger breathe

A cloud-ing eyes to show you how you've grown. Oh stagger breathe

T cloud-ing eyes show you how you've grown. Oh stagger breathe

B cloud-ing eyes show you how you've grown. Oh

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COMPOSE LIKE A GIRL



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Listen to Jocelyn interview incredible female-identifying composers about their process, finding artistic truth, and leading with curiosity. These inspirational interviews are complemented by excellent recordings.



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LET THE WORLD KNOW

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