

J O A N S Z Y M K O

Perhaps I Shall Be

choral setting on a poem by

NANCY WOOD

for

treble voices & piano



JOAN SZYMKO

Joan Szymko (b.1957) is widely regarded as an outstanding choral composer in North America today. Her works consistently display a discerning, stirring marriage of words and music. The American Choral

Directors Association (ACDA) recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in North America by selecting her as a recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission (2010) Notably, her music has been sung on stage or in sessions at every national ACDA conference since 2003. A dynamic conductor, Joan has led choirs in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years. As a visiting artist, Szymko workshops her compositions with choirs in academic and festival setting in the US and abroad. As a resident composer and performer with Portland's Do Jump! Movement Theater, she created underscoring for major touring productions, earning praise from the New York Times for her "ethereal vocal music." For more about Joan Szymko and to explore her catalog of over 150 choral works, visit her website: www.joanszymko.com

NANCY WOOD

"Nancy C. Wood (1936-2013) was a writer and photographer who produced 28 books about the American southwest. The region's wilderness and Native American spirituality inspired her life view and profound poetry... Wood wrote six books of poetry inspired by the spirituality of Taos pueblo and the mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. She won numerous awards, including a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, and the International Reading Association Teacher's Choice Award. Three of her poems are in the Unitarian Universalist hymnal."
— from nancywood.com

Perhaps I Shall Be

A long time I have lived with you
And now we must be going
Separately to be together.
Perhaps I shall be the wind
To blur your smooth waters
So that you do not see your

*face too much **

Perhaps I shall be the star
To guide your uncertain wings
So that you have direction in the night.
Perhaps I shall be the fire
To separate your thoughts
So that you do not give up.
Perhaps I shall be the rain
To open up the earth
So that your seed may fall.
Perhaps I shall be the snow
To let your blossoms sleep
So that you may bloom in spring.
Perhaps I shall be the stream
To play a song on the rock
So that you are not alone.
Perhaps I shall be a new mountain
So that you always have a home.

— Nancy Wood

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please visit www.NancyWood.com

* words in italics do not appear in the musical setting

Commissioned by the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble
Sponsored by Connie Marks with joyful dedication to the life of Karen D. Miller

Perhaps I Shall Be

for perusal only

Nancy Wood

Joan Szymko

Andante
♩=74

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1
mp *mf*
A long time I have lived with you And now we must be go-ing, and

Alto 2
mp *mf*
A long time I have lived with you And now we must be go-ing, and

Andante
♩=74

Piano
mp *mf*

Music: Joan Szymko, ©2024 Joan Szymko.

Text: poem, "A long time I have lived with you" by Nancy Wood, ©1974 Nancy C. Wood, from *Many Winters*,
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S1 *mp* *mf*
 sep-'rate-ly to - geth-er

S2 *mp* *mf*
 sep-'rate-ly to - geth-er

A1 *mp* *mf*
 now we must be go-ing_ sep-'rate-ly_ sep-'rate-ly to be to - geth-er.

A2 *mp* *mf*
 now we must be go-ing_ sep-'rate-ly_ sep-'rate-ly to be to - geth-er.

Pno.

for perusal only

10 **A** Più mosso ♩. = 62

S1

S2

A1

A2

Pno.

mf *f* *mf*

2 2 2 2

Ped.

13 *mf* *f* 5

S1
Per - haps I shall be the wind to

S2
Per - haps I shall be the wind to

A1
Per - haps I shall be the wind

A2
Per - haps I shall be the wind to

Pno.

17 *mf*

S1
blur your smooth wa - ters. Per -

S2
blur your smooth wa - ters. Per -

A1
blur wa - ters. *mf*

A2
blur smooth wa - ters. *mf*

Pno.

21 *f*

S1
haps I shall be _____ the star To guide your un - cer - tain

S2
haps I shall be _____ the star To guide your un - cer - tain

A1
haps I shall be _____ the star To guide your un - cer - tain

A2
haps I shall be _____ the star To guide your un - cer - tain

Pno.

21 *f*

no ped.

24 *mp* **B**

S1
wings _____

S2
wings _____

A1
wings _____ So that you have di - rec - tion in the

A2
wings _____ So that you have di - rec - tion in the

Pno.

24 *p* *mp* *p* **B**

use ped. judiciously

28 *mf* 7

S1 *mf* So that you have di - rec - tion in the

S2 *mf* So that you have di - rec - tion in the

A1 *mf* night.

A2 *mf* night.

Pno. *mf*

for perusal only

32 *f*

S1 *f* night. in the

S2 *f* night. in the

A1 *f* So that you have di - rec - tion in the

A2 *f* So that you have di - rec - tion in the

Pno. *f*

8

36 *accel.*

S1 *mp* *p*
night.

S2 *mp* *p*
night.

A1 *mp* *p*
night.

A2 *mp* *p*
night.

Pno. *mp* *p* *accel.*

Ped.

42 *p* $\text{♩} = 60$ **C**

S1 Per - haps

S2

A1 *p* Per - haps

A2 *p* Per - haps

Pno. $\text{♩} = 60$ **C**

49 *mf* *mp*

S
Per- haps I shall be_ the fire Per-

A
Per- haps I shall be_ the fire Per-

Pno. *mf*

for perusal only

54 *mf*

S
haps I shall be_ the fire_ To se - pa-rate your thoughts_ your

A
haps I shall be_ the fire_ To se - pa-rate your thoughts_ your

Pno.

58 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S
thoughts_ So that you do not give up_ So that you

A
thoughts_ So that you do not give up_ So that you

Pno. *mp*

62 *mf* *f*

S1 do not give up_ do not give up do not give up_

S2 do not give up_ do not give up do not give up_ Per -

A1 do not give up_ do not give up do not give up_ Per -

A2 do not give up_ do not give up do not give up_

Pno. *mf* *f*

for perusal only

66 **D** *f*

S1 Per - haps I shall be_ the rain_

S2 haps I shall be_ the rain_ Per - haps I shall be_ the rain_

A1 haps I shall be_ the rain_ per-haps the rain, Per -

A2 per - haps_ the rain, Per -

Pno. *f* *mf*

Ped.

70 **Meno mosso** ♩=52

S1 *mf* To o - pen up

S2 *mp* *mf* To o - pen up

A1 *mf* *mp* *mf* haps I shall be the rain To o - pen up

A2 *mf* *mp* *mf* haps I shall be the rain To o - pen up to

70 **Meno mosso** ♩=52

Pno. *mf*

Ped. \wedge

poco accel. **Più mosso** ♩=60

S1 *f* *mf* *mp* To o - pen up the earth may

S2 *f* *mf* *mp* To o - pen up the earth may

A1 *f* To o - pen up the earth So that your seed may fall.

A2 *f* o - pen up the earth So that your seed may fall.

poco accel. **Più mosso** ♩=60

Pno. *f*

\wedge cont. ped. judiciously

79 poco rit. . . . ♩=52 rit. . . . ♩=80

♩=♩

S1 fall. _____ rain, *p*

S2 fall. _____ rain, *p*

A1 *mf* So that your seed may fall. _____ per - haps I shall be _____ the rain. *mp* *p*

A2 *mf* So that you seed may fall. _____ per - haps I shall be _____ the rain, *mp* *p*

79 poco rit. . . . ♩=52 rit. . . . ♩=80

♩=♩

Pno. *mf* *mp*

for perusal only

85

E poco rit. . . . Più mosso ♩=100

S1 rain. _____ Per-haps I shall be _____ *p*

S2 *mp* rain. _____ Per-haps, *p* Per-haps I shall be _____ the snow *mp*

A1 rain. _____ per-haps I shall be _____ the snow _____ *p* *mp*

A2 rain. _____ Per-haps I shall be _____ *p*

85

E poco rit. . . . Più mosso ♩=100

Pno. *mp*

90 *p* *mp*

S1 the snow

S2 *mf* To let your blos-soms sleep

A1 *mf* To let your blos-soms sleep *mp* so you may

A2 *p* *mp* *mp* the snow so you may

Pno. *mf*

95 **poco accel.** *mf* *f*

S1 may bloom may bloom in

S2 *mf* *f* may bloom may bloom in

A1 *mf* *f* bloom may bloom in

A2 *mf* *f* bloom may bloom in

Pno. *mf* *f*

Red.

99 $\text{♩} = 60$

S1 *mp* spring. *p* spring. *p* spring.

S2 *mp* spring. *p* spring. *p* spring.

A1 *mp* spring. *p* spring. *p* spring.

A2 *mp* spring. *p* spring. *p* spring.

Pno. *mp* *p*

8^{va}

107 **F**

S1 **for perusal only**

S2 *mf* Ah

A1 *mf* Per - haps I shall be the stream

A2 *mf* Per - haps I shall be the stream

Pno. *mf*

107 **F**

111 *mf*

S1 Ah

S2 I shall be,

A1 Per-haps I shall be Per-haps I shall be__ the stream *mf*

A2 Per-haps I shall be Per-haps I shall be__ the stream *mf*

Pno.

115 *f*

S1 Per-haps, Per-haps I shall be__ the stream

S2 be the stream Per-haps, Per-haps I shall be__ the stream *f*

A1 Per-haps, Per-haps I shall be__ the stream *f*

A2 Per-haps, Per-haps I shall be__ the stream *f*

Pno.

119

S1 *ff* To play a song on the rock *f* So that you are not a - lone

S2 *ff* To play a song *f* So that you are not a - lone

A1 *ff* To play a song on the rock

A2 *ff* To play a song on the rock

Pno. 119 *f*

for perusal only

124 *mf* *rit.* $\text{♩} = 90$

S1 *mf* So that you are not a - lone

S2 *mf* So that you are not a - lone

A1 *f* So that you are not *mf* a - lone

A2 *f* So that you are not *mf* a - lone

Pno. 124 *mf* *rit.* $\text{♩} = 90$

poco rit. **G** **Tempo primo**

128 *mp*

S1

S2

A1

A2

not a - lone.

mf

not a - lone.

128 **poco rit.** **G** **Tempo primo**

Pno.

mp *mf*

134 *mf* **molto accel.**

S1

S2

A1

A2

Per - haps I will be__ a new moun-tain__ Per-

Per - haps I will be__ a new moun-tain__ Per-

Per - haps I will be__ a new moun-tain__ Per-

Per - haps I will be__ a new moun-tain__ Per-

134 **molto accel.**

Pno.

mf

cont. ped. judiciously

Più mosso ♩=90

rit.

139

f

S1 haps I will be a new moun-tain a new moun - tain

f

S2 haps I will be a new moun-tain moun - tain

f

A1 haps I will be a new moun-tain moun - tain

f

A2 haps I will be a new moun-tain moun - tain

Più mosso ♩=90

rit.

139

f

Pno.

A tempo

poco accel.

145

mf

S1 So that you al - ways

mf

S2 So that you al - ways

mf

A1 So that you al - ways

mf

A2 So that you al - ways

poco accel.

145

A tempo

mf

Pno.

150 $\text{♩} = 100$ **molto rit.** **Tempo primo** 9

S1 *p* you al - ways have a home,

S2 *p* you al - ways have a home,

A1 *p* you al - ways have a home,

A2 *p* you al - ways have a home,

Pno. *mp*

for perusal only

154 *mf* *mp* *p*

S1 home.

S2 home.

A1 home.

A2 home.

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*