

J O A N S Z Y M K O

SAIL AWAY

a setting of poetry
by
Rabindranath Tagore



JOAN SZYMKO (b.1957)

Joan Szymko is widely regarded as an outstanding composer of choral music in America today. With a catalog of over 150 choral works, her music is sung regularly at choral festivals and competitions across North America and abroad and has been heard on stage or in sessions at every National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association since 2003. The 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 in 2010. Szymko has composed for professional, church, LGBTQ, children's and all manner of academic and community choirs. Her 2016 commissioned oratorio, *Shadow and Light*, a major new addition to the repertoire for chorus and orchestra, shines a compassionate light on the suffering of those journeying through life with Alzheimer's dementia.

Szymko's embodied approach to sound, dedication to craft, and insistence on quality texts— all relate to her experience as a choral conductor and are reflected in her compositions. Her settings consistently display a discerning, insightful marriage of words and music. Her primary intention is to always illuminate and magnify the words she sets.

Joan makes her home in Portland, Oregon in the Pacific Northwest of North America. A dynamic conductor, she workshops her compositions with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad.

For more about Joan and her compositions, see www.joanszymko.com.

SAIL AWAY

*Early in the day it was whispered that
we should sail in a boat,
only thou and I, and never a soul in the world
would know of this our pilgrimage
to no country and to no end.*

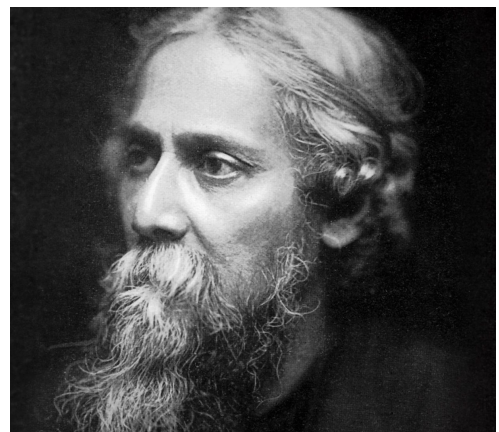
*In that shoreless ocean, at thy silently listening
smile my songs would swell in melodies,
free as waves, free from all bondage of words.*

*Is the time not come yet?
Are there works still to do?
Lo, the evening has come down upon the shore
and in the fading light the seabirds
come flying to their nests.*

*Who knows when the chains will be off,
and the boat, like the last glimmer of sunset,
vanish into the night?*

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore (1862-1941) worked in various literary genres. He was also known for his musical compositions. Throughout his life he pursued writing, teaching and activism. Later in life he became known as a painter. But first and foremost, Tagore was a poet. "Sail Away" is No. 42 from his most notable work, *Gitanjali: Song Offerings* for which Tagore won the 1913 Nobel Prize for literature for the English translation of his original Bengali language collection. He was the first non-European to receive this honor.



Commissioned by Peterborough Male Voice Choir with funding from Arts Council England
SATB voicing for Choral Chameleon

Sail Away for perusal only

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)
No. 42, *Gitanjali: Song Offerings*

Joan Szymko
ASCAP

Moderate ♩=108

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Moderate ♩=108

Piano

p

Ped.

5

S. _____

A. *p*
Ear-ly in the day _____ it was whis-pered that we should sail _____

T. *p*
Ear-ly in the day _____ it was whis-pered that we should sail _____

B. _____

Pno. *p*

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9

S. _____ *mp* on - ly thou and I _____ *mf* and

A. _____ *mp* in a boat, _____ *mp* on - ly thou and I _____ *mf* and

T. _____ *mp* in a boat, _____ *mf* on - ly thou and

B. _____ *mp* on - ly thou and I, _____ *mf* and

Pno. *mp*

_____ \wedge ped. simile

14

S. *mp* *p*
nev-er a soul in the world

A. *p*
I

T. *mp* *p* *mp*
nev-er a soul in the world would know_ of this would know of our pil-gri-mage to no

B. *p* *mp*
I would know of our pil-gri-mage to no

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*

18

S. *p* *mp*
and to no end.

A. *p* *mp*
and to no end.

T. *p* *mp*
coun - try and to no end.

B. *p* *mp*
coun - try and to no end.

Pno.

22

S. *mf*
In that shore less o - cean, _____

A. *mf*
In that shore-less o - cean, _____

T. *mf*
In that shore-less o - cean,

B. *mf*
In that shore-less o - cean,

Pno. *mp* *mf*

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26

S. In that shore-less o - cean, _____ at thy si-lent-ly lis-ten-ing smile_

A. In that shore-less o - cean, _____ at thy si-lent-ly lis-ten-ing smile

T. In that shore-less o - cean, _____ at thy si-lent-ly lis-ten-ing smile

B. In that shore-less o - cean, _____ at thy si-lent-ly lis-ten-ing smile

Pno.

30

S. my songs would swell in mel-o-dies free,

A. my songs would swell in me-lo dies free

T. my songs would swell in mel-o-dies free as waves,

B. my songs would swell,

Pno.

34

S. mel o dies free as waves, free

A. waves, free, free as waves

T. free from all bon-dage of words. free

B. free from all bon-dage of words. free as waves

Pno.

38

S. *mp* *p*
free

A. *mp* *p*
free

T. *mp* *p*
free

B. *mp* *p*
free

Pno. *mp* *p*

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42

S. - - - -

A. - - - -

T. *p* come yet?
Is the time not come

B. *p*
Is the time not come

Pno.

46 *mp* *molto legato*

S. Are there works still _____ to do? _____

A. Are there works still _____ to do? _____

T. _____

B. _____

p Lo, the

p Lo, the

46 *mp* *p*

Pno.

50 *mp*

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

mp Lo, the eve-ning has come

mp Lo, the eve-ning has come

mp eve-ning has come down, _____

mp Lo, _____

mp eve-ning has come down, _____

mp Lo, _____

50

Pno.

55 *rit.* *A tempo*

S. *p* *ppp*
down, _____

A. *p* *ppp* *p* *mp*
down, _____ come down up - on the shore _____

T. *p* *ppp*
down, _____

B. *p* *ppp* *p* *mp*
down, _____ come down up - on the shore _____

55 *rit.* *A tempo*

Pno. *pp*

60 *accel.* *p*

S. _____ and in the fad - ing light _____

A. _____ and in the fad - ing light _____

T. _____ and in the fad - ing light _____

B. _____ and in the fad - ing light _____

60 *accel.* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

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Piu mosso

♩=140

64 *mf*

S. the sea - birds come fly - ing to their nests.

A. the sea - birds come fly - ing to their nests.

T. the sea - birds to their nests.

B. the sea - birds to their nests.

Piu mosso

♩=140

64 *mf*

Pno.

69

S.

A.

T. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be off,

B. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be off,

69

Pno.

rit. *mf* **Tempo primo**

75

S. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be off,

A. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be off,

T. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be

B. *mf*
Who knows when the chains will be

Pno. *mp*

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79

S. and the boat, like the last glim-mer of sun - set, -

A. and the boat, last glim mer of

T. off, and the boat, like the last

B. off, and the boat like the last glim mer of

B. off, and the boat, like the

Pno. *mf*

83

S. _____ and the boat, _____

A. sun - set, _____ and the boat, _____

T. glim-mer of sun - set, _____ and the boat

B. sun - set, _____ and the boat

B. last glim-mer of sun - set, _____

Pno.

87

S. _____ *mp* *senza rit.* *p*
van - ish in - to the

A. _____ *mp* *p*
van - ish in - to the

T. *mf* *mp* *p*
van - ish van - ish in - to the

B. *mf* *mp* *p*
van - ish van - ish in - to the

Pno.

f *mf* *mp*

92

S. *ppp*
night?

A. *ppp*
night?

T. *ppp*
night?

B. *ppp*
night?

Pno. *sempre p*

95

rit.

S.

A.

T.

B.

B.

Pno. *rit.* *ppp*

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