

J O A N S Z Y M K O

PREVIEW -not yet premiered!
for perusal only!

VOX MATRIS

Mother's Voice



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

DOROTHY PETGEN

I have been unable to find any biographical information about the poet, Dorothy Petgen. Her verse, *VOX MATRIS* appeared in the June 2023 edition of *POETRY* Magazine and is in the public domain. I have made an inquiry to the Poetry Foundation which manages the archives of this publication which has had such a tremendous influence over the culture of American poetry. - JS

VOX MATRIS (Mother's Voice)

*I have given you sight
Beyond my eyes—
For star-braided mountains,
And for all things invisible and amazing.*

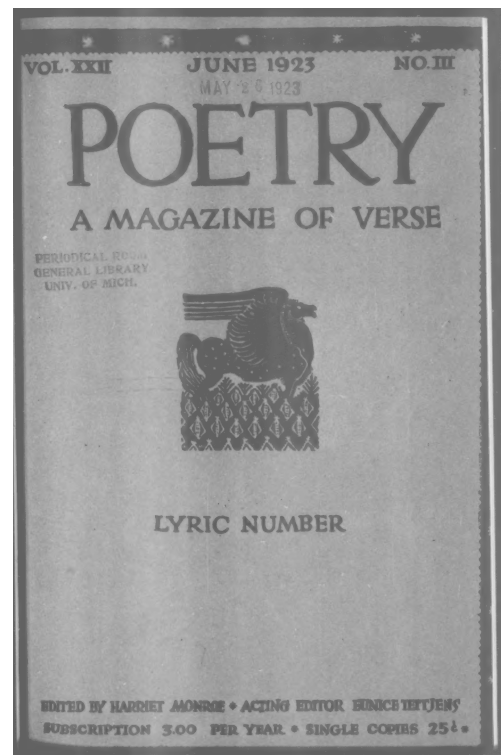
*I have taken a fragile fire
Out of my heart,
That I might give you light to find a
shining
Beyond these luminous shadows,
And this disastrous darkness.*

*I have given you the singing of my veins
For a melody;
It shall outsoar all prayers and all crying,
And all silence.*

*I blind, see bewildering visions;
I, sitting in shadow, am drenched with
sunrises;*

*Dumb, I am consumed with music.
Having given all things, I possess all things,
Save you only.*

— Dorothy Petgen (1923)



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Commissioned by Seattle Girls Choir for
Prime Voci, Spring 2025

VOX MATRIS Mother's Voice

Dorothy Petgen
(1923)

Joan Szymko

$\text{♩} = 68$
Semplice

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Piano

p
I have giv-en_____

p
I have giv-en_____

p
I have giv-en_____

p
I have giv-en_____

$\text{♩} = 68$
p
senza ped.

molto rall. . . . ♩=58

6

S. *mp*
I have giv-en you sight be- yond my eyes

A. *mp*
I have giv-en you sight be- yond my eyes

Pno. *mp* *p* *leggiero*
Ped. _____

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11

molto rall. **A tempo** **accel.**

S. *pp* *p*
I have giv-en you sight Be- yond my eyes,

A. *pp* *p*
I have giv-en you sight Be- yond my eyes,

Pno. *pp* *p* *accel.*

14

S. *mf* be - yond my eyes — For *rit.*

A. *mf* be - yond my eyes — For *rit.*

Pno. *rit.*

16

S1 *mp* star-braid - ed moun - tains and all things in - vis - i - ble, For

S2 *mp* star-braid - ed moun - tains and all things in - vis - i - ble, For

A1 *mp* star-braid - ed moun - tains and all things in - vis - i - ble, For

A2 *mp* star-braid - ed moun - tains and all things in - vis - i - ble, For

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*

19 *poco accel.* *mf* *f* $\text{♩} = 84$

S1
all things in - vis - i - ble and a - maz - ing.

S2
all things in - vis - i - ble and a - maz - ing.

A1
all things in - vis - i - ble and a - maz - ing.

A2
all things in - vis - i - ble and a - maz - ing.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *8va* *semplice* *mp* *Red.*

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24 *p* *rit.*

S.
I have ta - ken a fra - gile fire I have ta - ken a

A.
I have ta - ken a fra - gile fire I have ta - ken a

Pno. *p* *rit.*

29 **A tempo** *mp* *mf*

S. fra-gile fire out of my heart That I might give you light _____ to

A. fra-gile fire out of my heart That I might give you light _____ to

A tempo
leggero

Pno. (8) *mf*

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32 **molto rit.** *mf*

S. find a shin - ing, _____ a

A. find a shin - ing, _____ a

Pno. (8) **molto rit.**

A tempo ♩=78

34 *p*

S1 shin-ing Be-yond these lu - mi-nous sha - dows, these lu - mi nous,

S2 shin-ing Be-yond these lu - mi-nous sha - dows, be - yond these lu - mi nous,

A1 shin-ing Be-yond these lu - mi-nous sha - dows, be - yond these lu - mi nous,

A2 shin-ing Be-yond these lu - mi-nous sha - dows, be - yond these lu - mi nous,

Pno. **A tempo** ♩=78

(8) 7

piano tacet to M50

38 *p* *mp*

Solo or Trio

And this dis - as - trous dark - ness

S1 — lu - mi - nous, sha - dows, — these sha - dows — these

S2 — lu - mi - nous sha - dows, — these sha - dows — these

A1 — lu - mi - nous sha - dows, — these sha - dows — these

A2 — lu - mi - nous sha - dows, — these sha - dows — these

44 *p* *mp* *p*

And this dis-as - trous dark - ness

S1 *pp*
sha - dows this dark - ness.

S2 *pp*
sha - dows this dark - ness.

A1 *pp*
sha - dows this dark - ness.

A2 *pp*
sha - dows this dark - ness.

Pno.

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50 *mp* *poco accel.*

S. I have giv-en you the sing-ing of my

A. I have giv-en you the sing-ing of my

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

Red.

♩=90

55

mf *mp*

S. veins For a mel-o- dy, for a mel-o- dy;

A. veins For a mel-o- dy, for a mel-o- dy;

Pno. *mf* *mp*

60

mf *f*

S1 It shall out - soar all prayers, it shall out - soar all

mf *f*

S2 It shall out - soar all prayers, out - soar all

mf *f*

A1 It shall out - soar

mf *f*

A2 It shall out - soar all prayers, out -

Pno. *mf*

64

S1 *mf* *rit.* *mp*
prayers and all cry - ing, all cry - ing, and all

S2 *mf* *mp*
prayers, all cry - ing, all cry - ing, and all

A1 *mf* *mp*
all cry - ing, all cry - ing, and all

A2 *mf* *rit.*
soar all cry - ing, and all

Pno.

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69

S1 *p* *A tempo*
si - lence.

S2 *p*
si - lence.

A1 *p*
si - lence.

A2 *p*
si - lence.

Pno. *mp* *A tempo*

accel.

74

S1

S2

A1

A2

Pno.

mf Ah

mf Ah

mf Ah

mf Ah

mf accel.

79

S1

S2

A1

A2

Pno.

f Ah

f Ah

f Ah

f Ah

f rall.

85 *ff* *mp*

S1 I blind, I see be -

S2 I blind, I see be -

A1 I blind, I see be -

A2 I blind, I see be -

Pno. *ff* *p*

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90 *p* *p* *p* *p*

S1 wil - der-ing vi - sions I, sit-ting in sha- dow, am

S2 wil - der-ing vi - sions I, sit-ting in sha- dow, am

A1 wil - der-ing vi - sions I, sit-ting in sha- dow, am

A2 wil - der-ing vi - sions I, sit-ting in sha- dow, am

Pno. *mp* *p*

96 *mp* *mf* *accel.*

S1
drenched, drenched, am drenched with sun - ris - es

S2
drenched, drenched, am drenched with sun - ris - es

A1
drenched, drenched, am drenched with sun - ris - es

A2
drenched, drenched, am drenched with sun - ris - es

Pno.
Ped. 7

100 *mf* *mf* *mf* $\text{♩} = 96$

S1
I am con -

S2
I am con -

A1
I am con -

A2
Dumb,

Pno.
mp Ped.

103

S1 *mf* I am con -

S2 sumed I am con -

A1 sumed I am con -

A2 mu - - - -

Pno.

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105

S1 *f* sumed with mu - sic, with

S2 *f* sumed with mu - sic, with

A1 *f* sumed with mu - sic, with

A2 *f* - - - - sic. with

Pno.

107 **rit.** **Tempo primo**

S1
mu - sic. _____

S2
mu - sic. _____ *mf* I have giv - en you sight

A1
mu - sic. _____

A2
mu - sic. _____

Pno. **rit.** **Tempo primo**
mf

111 *mf* **molto rall.** . . .

S1
I have giv - en you the sing - ing of my

S2
I have giv - en you the sing - ing of my

A1
mf I have giv - en a fra - gile fire _____ of my

A2
mf I have giv - en you the sing - ing of my

Pno. **molto rall.** . . .
p

114 **A tempo**

S1 *mp* veins. Hav-ing giv-en all *mp*

S2 veins. Hav-ing giv-en all *mp*

A1 veins. Hav-ing giv-en all *mp*

A2 veins. Hav-ing giv-en all *mp*

Pno. **A tempo** *mp*

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118 **Più mosso** ♩=76

S1 things, I pos-sess all things,

S2 things, I pos-sess all things,

A1 things, I pos-sess all things,

A2 things, I pos-sess all things,

Pno. **Più mosso** ♩=76

121 *mf*

S. Save you — Save you —

A. *mf*
on - ly.

Pno. *mf*

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125 *molto rall.* $\text{♩} = 60$ *mp* *rit.*

S. on - ly you.

A. *mp*
on - ly you.

Pno. *molto rall.* $\text{♩} = 60$ *p* *mp* *rit.*

128 *rit.*

S.

A.

Pno. *pp* *ppp*