

Beyond What I See  
SSA div., piano  
KP0021

B.E. Boykin

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**i am**

for SSA div. choir and piano



**KLAVIA PRESS**

## Text:

i am bark brown in the saffron aether  
my body whittled into whorls  
textured by teeth of small crawling things  
and i am waiting  
like a god in repose that i am  
a crown of cypress burls blossoming from my hair  
and i am waiting  
and the flowers shoot through the cypress into the aether  
and still i am  
waiting on my side arm propped to face  
impatiently waiting for a world to break  
through the yellow ether  
waiting  
to birth  
for the morning to midwife  
an eclipse  
of fresh  
earth

- Brittany Ray Crowell, "Intermission of Aether and  
Earthe," based on Alison Saar's painting "Aether and Earthe"

## The Poet:



**Brittany Ray Crowell** is a native of Texarkana, TX. She is the recipient of a Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry and the Lucy Terry Prince Prize, judged by Major Jackson. Her poems have been published or are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *Frontier*, *The Common*, *The West Review*, *Mount Island*, *Aunt Chloe*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Journal*, and the anthology *Black Lives Have Always Mattered*. She recently participated as one of the librettists for the Kennedy Center's Cartography Project. She is a teaching assistant and PhD candidate in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Houston and a poetry editor for Gulf Coast.

Part of the "Every BODY" project with the support of the following commissioning consortium:

Atlanta Women's Chorus, Dr. Melissa Arasi, artistic director

Appalachian Equality Chorus (Knoxville, TN) Dr. Alan Stevens, artistic director

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, Dr. Thea Kano, artistic director

One Voice Chorus (Charlotte, NC), Cory Davis, artistic director/Turtle Creek Chorale (Dallas, TX), Sean Baugh, artistic director

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Dr. Gerald Gurs, artistic director

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## i am

for SSAA div. choir and piano

Brittney Ray Crowell

B.E. Boykin

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Freely

Whistle\*

Piano

4  $\text{♩} = 64$  *mp*

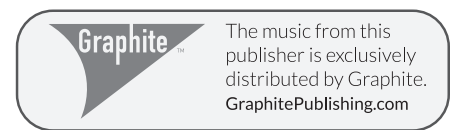
S1

S2

A1

A2

\*Whistle echo for 1 or 2 singers.



8

(♩ = ♪) Fluttering

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Musical score for parts S1, S2, A1, A2, and piano accompaniment. The piano part features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand.

13

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*mf*

S1  
i am bark brown in the saf - fron aeth - er\* my bo - dy whit - tled in - to whorls\*

*mf*

S2  
i am bark brown in the saf - fron aeth - er\* my bo - dy whit - tled in - to whorls\*

*mf*

A1  
i am bark brown in the saf - fron aeth - er\* my bo - dy whit - tled in - to whorls\*

*mf*

A2  
i am bark brown in the saf - fron aeth - er\* my bo - dy whit - tled in - to whorls\*

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Musical score for parts S1, S2, A1, A2, and piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with the same rhythmic pattern as in the previous section.

\*aether ('i:θər)  
\*whorls (wɔ:ls)

17

S1 text - ured by teeth of small crawl - ing things and i am wait - ing like a god in re - pose

S2 text - ured by teeth of small crawl - ing things and i am wait - ing like a god in re - pose

A1 text - ured by teeth of small crawl - ing things and i am wait - ing like a god in re - pose

A2 text - ured by teeth of small crawl - ing things and i am wait - ing like a god in re - pose

21

S1 — that\_ i am i am

S2 — that\_ i am i am

A1 — that\_ i am i am

A2 — that\_ i am i am

27

*mf* *mp*

S1 a crown of cy - press

S2 a crown of cy - press

A1 wait - ing i am and still

A2 *mf* *f* cy - press burls bloss - o - ming from my hair flow - ers

31

S1 burls im - pa - tient - ly

S2 burls im - pa - tient - ly

A1 am am

A2 shoot through the cy - press in - to the ae - ther im - pa - tient - ly

Reflective ♩ = 56

34

*f* *mp*

S1  
wait - ing for a world to break through the yel - low ae - ther still i

S2  
wait - ing for a world to break through the yel - low ae - ther still i

A1  
wait - ing for a world to break through the yel - low ae - ther

A2  
wait - ing for a world to break through the yel - low ae - ther

*f* *p*

38

S1  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i

S2  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i

A1  
still i

A2  
still i

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

42

S1  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i am

S2  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i am

A1  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i am

A2  
am and i am wait - ing still i am and i am wait - ing still i am

*mf*

47  $\text{♩} = 68$

S1

S2

A1

A2

Whistle\*

*mp*

\*Whistle echo with more singers.

50

*mp*

S1 Mm Mm

S2 *mp* Mm Mm

A1 *mp* Mm Mm

A2 *mp* Mm Mm

54 **Volitant**

*mf*

S1 i am i

S2 *mf* i am i

A1 *mf* i am i

A2 *mf* i am i

58

S1  
am i i i am

S2  
am i i i am

A1  
am i i i am

A2  
am i i i am

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62

S1  
*f*  
i am i

S2  
*f*  
i am i

A1  
*f*  
i am i

A2  
*f*  
i am i

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*f*

66

S1  
am i i i am i am

S2  
am i i i am i am

A1  
am i i i am

A2  
am i i i am

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70

S1  
i am *ff*

S2  
i i am *ff*

A1  
i i am *ff*

A2  
i i am *ff*

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B.E. (Brittney Elizabeth) Boykin is a distinguished composer, conductor and pianist, renowned for her dynamic artistry and profound contributions to the world of music. Most recently, her music appears on two albums nominated for the 2026 GRAMMY Awards in the Best Classical Solo Vocal Album category: *Black Pierrot* (Sidney Outlaw and Warren Jones) and *In This Short Life* (Devony Smith and Danny Zelibor). This recognition stands as one of her newest career highlights, joining a legacy of performances at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and affirms her influence as a leading voice in contemporary classical music.

In addition to her work in opera, she continues to leave a lasting impact on the choral world as a sought-after conductor and clinician who is celebrated for her unique artistic expressions and ability to connect with her ensembles. With a career characterized by artistic excellence, educational impact, and a deep commitment to cultural advocacy, she is honored to serve on the National Board for the National Collegiate Choral Organization. She is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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Mo(u)rning  
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Beyond What I See  
i am

SSAA, Djembe, Cello and Piano  
SSAA and Piano

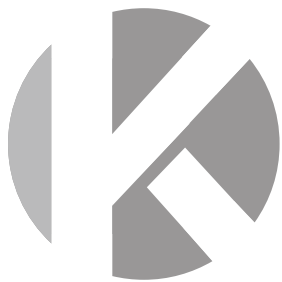
KP0019  
KP0021

In the Stillness  
The Space Within  
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SATB and Piano  
SATB and Piano  
SATB and Piano

KP0022  
KP0023  
KP0025

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