

041.00

SHARA NOVA  
**SPRING HYMNS**

for SA choir and piano (2025)

Blue Sword Publishing

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Music and lyrics by  
Shara Nova, 2025.

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# SPRING HYMNS

## for SA choir and piano

Words and music by Shara Nova, 2025 — Duration ca. 6'40"

### Comissioning Information

Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Shane Troll.

### Movements

1. How Far Can a Bird Fly? (2'30")
2. Laudamus Sancta Matrem (1'50")
3. A Thief! A Thief! (2'15")

### Performance Notes

Inspired by Benjamin Britten's *Friday Afternoons*, these songs are the first in a series entitled Spring Hymns, written to teach young singers melodic independence through call and response, canons, and sustained breath in longer vocal lines. Rather than emphasizing sweetness, these songs celebrate mischief, curiosity, reverence, and the thrill of discovery. In acknowledging that which is greater than ourselves, we become "right-sized," recognizing our place in the universe as both small and sacred, humble and divine. I hope that by fostering connection to the natural world, our children may grow to be protectors of the nature that sustains—and truly is—us all.

### Editions

This complete edition contains all three movements.

#### [041.0] Spring Hymns, for SA choir and piano

Additionally, each movement is available as a stand-alone work.

[041.1] "How Far Can a Bird Fly?" from Spring Hymns

[041.2] "Laudamus Sancta Matrem," from Spring Hymns

[041.3] "A Thief! A Thief!" from Spring Hymns

### Lyrics

#### 1. How Far Can a Bird Fly?

How far can a bird fly?  
There to here,  
And as it is going,  
There, to here,  
Just what is it thinking?  
Upon the air,  
Free,  
Remembering yesteryear,  
How it knows,  
Where to go,

Coo-coo,  
Coo-coo.

Mother showed,  
Father showed,

How far can a bird fly...

#### 2. Laudamus Sancta Matrem

Laudamus sancta matrem,  
To you I call,  
The long night, it is breaking,  
Will you again come to renew,  
Though amazed by strange things humans do,  
Daylight on us all to you in plain view,  
Imbue the high and low with sight like thine,  
No one favored, your grace defined,  
Laudamus sancta matrem,  
Into your arms I fall.

Gloria, gloria, gloria.

(continued on next page)

*(lyrics, continued)*

3. A Thief! A Thief!

There is a thief round here, a thief! A thief!  
One who likes sparkly things,  
Buttons and bottle caps, tinsel and leaf,  
There is a thief! A thief! A thief!

If I sit very still, watchful and waiting,  
I may spot him, I may spot him, shh!  
Mmm, mmm, mmm,  
Who could the thief be,  
Mmm, mmm, mmm,

Oh, my! There goes the smuggler!  
I caught him, caught him, caught him,  
It's a magpie, a magpie,  
A thief! A thief! A thief!  
It's a magpie! It's a magpie!

VOCAL RANGES

SPRING HYMNS  
(Full Piece)

Soprano  
and Alto

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, connected by a slur. The G4 note has a sharp sign.

*Optional high F-sharp for sopranos  
in movement three.*

1. How Far Can  
a Bird Fly?

Soprano  
and Alto

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are G4, A4, and Bb4, connected by a slur. The Bb4 note has a flat sign.

2. Laudamus  
Sancta Matrem

Soprano  
and Alto

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are G4, A4, and Bb4, connected by a slur. The Bb4 note has a flat sign.

3. A Thief!  
A Thief!

Soprano  
and Alto

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, connected by a slur. The G4 note has a sharp sign.



Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Shane Troll.

# SPRING HYMNS

for SA voices and piano

## 1. How Far Can a Bird Fly?

SHARA NOVA

**A**

SHARA NOVA (2025)

Swaying, ♩ = 120

*mf*

Treble

Piano

*mp*

How far can a

7

Tr.

Pno.

bird fly? There to here, And as it is

13

**B**

Tr.

Pno.

go - ing, There, to here,

18

Tr. Just what is it think-ing? Up-on the air,

Pno. *mf*

25

Tr. Free, Re -

Pno. *f* *mp*

C

31

Tr. mem - ber - ing yes - - tet - year,

Pno. *p* *mp*

D

38

Tr. How it knows, Where to go,

Pno. *mf* *p*

**E**

43 *mf*

S Coo-coo, coo-coo, coo-coo, coo-coo,

A Coo-coo, coo-coo, coo-coo,

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

50

S Moth-er showed,

A coo-coo, Fa-ther showed,

Pno. *sub. p* *mp* *pp* *mp*

**F** *mf*

56

S  
How far can a bird fly?

A  
How far can a bird fly?

Pno. *p*

62

S  
There to here, And as it is go - ing,

A  
— There to here, And as it is go - ing,

Pno.

**G**

68

S  
There, \_\_\_\_\_ to here, Just what is it think-ing?

A  
There, \_\_\_\_\_ to here, Just what is it

Pno.

## 2. Laudamus Sancta Matrem

Swaying, ♩ = 48

**A**  
*mf*

Treble

Piano

*mp*

Lau - da -

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 4. The Treble clef part is mostly rests, with a single note on the 4th line (G4) in measure 4. The Piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *mp*. The lyrics 'Lau - da -' are positioned under the Treble clef staff.

6

Tr.

Pno.

mus sanc - ta mat - rem, To you I

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The Treble clef part has a vocal line with lyrics 'mus sanc - ta mat - rem, To you I'. The Piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment and chords. The dynamic is *mp*.

**B**

11

Tr.

Pno.

call, The long night, it is break - ing,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The Treble clef part has a vocal line with lyrics 'call, The long night, it is break - ing,'. The Piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment and chords. The dynamic is *mp*.

16

Tr. Will you a - gain come to re - new,

Pno.

21 **C**

Tr. Though a - mazed by strange things hu - mans do,

Pno. *p* *pp* *sva*

25

Tr. Day - light on us all to you in plain view, Im -

Pno. *p*

29 **D**

Tr. bue the high and low with sight like

Pno.

32

Tr. thine, No - one fa - vored, your

Pno. *p*

35

Tr. grace de - fined, Lau - da -

Pno. *pp* **E**

39

Tr. mus sanc - ta mat - rem, In - to your arms

Pno.

43

Tr. I fall.

Pno.

### 3. A Thief! A Thief!

**Sneakily**,  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mp* *gva*

Piano

*mf*

The piano introduction is in 6/8 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. The dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to mezzo-forte (mf). A fermata is placed over the final measure of the introduction.

**A**

4 *mf*

Tr. There is a thief round here, a thief! A

*mp* *gva*

Pno. *mf*

The first vocal entry begins at measure 4. The singer (Tr.) enters with the lyrics "There is a thief round here, a thief! A". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the introduction. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) for the vocal and mezzo-piano (mp) for the piano. A fermata is placed over the final measure of the piano accompaniment.

8

Tr. thief! One who likes spar - - - kly things,

*p* *gva* *f* *p*

Pno. *p* *f* *p*

The second vocal entry begins at measure 8. The singer (Tr.) continues with the lyrics "thief! One who likes spar - - - kly things,". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a more complex texture with sustained chords and moving lines. Dynamics include piano (p), mezzo-forte (f), and mezzo-piano (mp). A fermata is placed over the final measure of the piano accompaniment.

**B**

12

Tr. tin - sel and leaf, There is a thief! A

Pno. *p* *mf* *8va*

**C**

15

Tr. thief! A thief! If I sit ver - y still, watch-ful and wait-ing,

Pno. *p* *mp*

**D**

19

Tr. I may spot him, I may spot him, shh! Mmm, mmm, — mmm, —

Pno. *f* *pp*

25

Tr. Who could the thief be, Mmm, mmm, mmm, —

Pno. *pp* *no cresc.*