

041.10

SHARA NOVA

How Far Can a Bird Fly?

From "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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How Far Can a Bird Fly?

from “Spring Hymns”

for SA choir and piano

Words and music by Shara Nova, 2025 — Duration ca. 2’30”

Comissioning Information

Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Shane Troll.

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

The original version of “Spring Hymns” 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

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...

Vocal Ranges

Soprano
and Alto



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How Far Can a Bird Fly?

From "Spring Hymns"

for SA voices and piano

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

C

Tr. Free, Re -

Pno. *f* *mp*

31

D

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

Pno. *p* *mp*

38

Tr. How it knows, Where to go,

Pno. *p* *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.