

041.30

SHARA NOVA

A Thief! A Thief!

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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A Thief! A Thief!

from “Spring Hymns”

for SA choir and piano

Words and music by Shara Nova, 2025 — Duration ca. 2’15”

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

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.

Vocal Ranges



*Optional high F-sharp for sopranos
in final chord.*

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for SA voices and piano

SHARA NOVA

SHARA NOVA (2025)

Sneakily, ♩ = 60

Piano

Tr. **A** *mf*

There is a thief round here, a thief! A

Pno. *mf*

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

Pno. *p* *f* *p*

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.*