

Stardust
GP-B019.2
SATB, piano, djembe

B.E. Boykin

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Stardust

for SATB choir, piano and djembe



notable. elevated.

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Text:

If we are only stardust
Let your names reach to the sky above us

Like petals wafting on a breeze
We lift you up beyond our reach

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”
Amen, Amen
”Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”
We say your names

If we are only stardust
May your blood never be in vain

Like petals wafting on a breeze
We lift you up beyond our reach

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”
Amen, Amen
“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”
We say your names

Each day we grieve another face
Maybe all this stardust
Will carry us home one day
To a home where we can run
A home where we can pray
A home where we can breathe,
To sleep and dream without fear
Is justice this far away?

We cry your names
For the strength to keep on fighting
With the hope that you are flying

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”
Stardust

- *Brittney Ray Crowell*

Notes:

In “Stardust,” the singers call for “a home where we can run” in memory of Ahmaud Arbery, “a home where we can pray” in memory of the victims of the Mother Emanuel shooting, “a home where we can breathe” in memory of George Floyd, and a home “to sleep and dream without fear” in memory of Breonna Taylor. When we sing, we pray twice, and it is my prayer that this piece stirs all who hear it to call for justice for the people of color taken from this world before their time and without concern for their humanity.

- *Marcus J. Jauregui*

From the Poet:

“Kum Buba Yali, Kum Buba Tambe”

“These are the ‘magic words’ from Virginia Hamilton’s ‘The People Could Fly.’ There’s no actual translation for it, although it has some similarities to some African languages/dialects. The lack of translation may have been Hamilton’s way of showing how most of the Africans lost access to their ability to fly due to being enslaved and removed from their culture.”

Brittney 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.



Commissioned by the Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale Houston ISD, Marcus J. Jauregui, conductor
SATB version commissioned by the MLK Chorale, Cincinnati, OH, Jason Holmes and Reina Dickey, directors

Stardust

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for SATB choir, piano, & djembe

Brittney Ray Crowell

B.E. Boykin

♩ = 85

Djembe

Piano

with light pedal

S
A
T
B

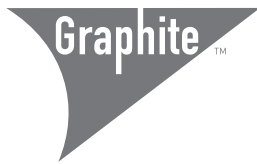
mf If we are on - ly star - dust

mf If we are on - ly star - dust

mf If we are on - ly star - dust

mf If we are on - ly star - dust

Piano



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10

S Let your names reach to the sky a -

A Let your names reach to the sky a -

T Let your names reach to the sky a -

B Let your names reach to the sky a -

Graphite notable. elevated.

10

Piano accompaniment for measures 10-12, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

13

S love us Like petals wafting on a

A love us Like petals wafting on a

T love us Like petals wafting on a

B love us Like petals wafting on a

Graphite notable. elevated.

13

Piano accompaniment for measures 13-15, including a key signature change to 4/4 time in measure 14.

16

S
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

A
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

T
8 breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

B
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach

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16

19

S
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

A
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

T
8 Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

B
Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

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19

23

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

B Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

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23

Piano accompaniment for measures 23-25, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

26

S be A-men! we say your names

A be A-men! we say your names

T be A-men! we say your names

B be A - men! we say your names

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26

Piano accompaniment for measures 26-28, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

30

S If we are on - ly star - dust

A If we are on - ly star - dust

T If we are on - ly star - dust

B If we are on - ly star - dust

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30

34

S May your blood ne-ver be in

A May your blood ne-ver be in

T May your blood ne-ver be in

B May your blood ne-ver be in

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34

37

S
vain Like pet - als waft - ing on a

A
vain Like pet - als waft - ing on a

T
vain Like pet - als waft - ing on a

B
vain Like pet - als waft - ing on a

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37

40

S
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

A
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

T
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

B
breeze we lift you up be - yond our reach -

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40

43

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T Kum Bu-ba Ya

B Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

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43

46

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li

A be Kum Bu - ba Ya - li

T Kum Bu-ba Tam - be Kum Bu-ba Ya -

B Kum Bu-ba Tam - be Kum Bu-ba Ya -

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46

49

S Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

A Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

T li Kum Bu-ba Tam be

B li Kum Bu-ba Tam - be

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52

S li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

A li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be

T Kum Bu-ba Ya - li Kum Bu-ba Tam -

B Kum Bu-ba Ya - li Kum Bu-ba Tam -

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55

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam -

T be Kum Bu-ba Ya li

B be Kum Bu-ba Ya - li

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58

S be A-men! we say your names

A be A-men! we say your names

T A-men! we say your names

B A-men! we say your names

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Graphite notable. elevated.

61 Meditatively ♩ = 60

S *mp* Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

A *mp* Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

T *mp* Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

B *mp* Each day we grieve a - noth - er face May - be all this star - dust will car - ry us

61

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. home one day A

A home one day — To a home where we can run — oo —

T home one day A home where we can pray

B home one day A home where we can pray

65

68

S home where we can breathe oo to sleep and dream —

A oo to sleep and dream —

T A home where we can pray to sleep and dream —

B A home where we can pray to sleep and dream —

71

S with out fear is just - ice this far a way.

A with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way.

T with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way.

B with - out fear is just - ice this far a - way.

74 $\text{♩} = 85$

S *f* we cry your names for the

A we cry your names we cry your names for the

T *f* we cry your names we cry your names for the

B we cry your names we cry your names for the

S strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

A strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

T strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

B strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing we cry your

* Divisi optional.

79

S names we cry your names for the

A names we cry your names for the

T names we cry your names notable. elevated for the

B names we cry your names for the

79

81

S strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

A strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

T strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

B strength to keep on fight - ing with the hope that you are fly - ing your

81

83

S names _____ your names _____ your

A names _____ your names _____ your

T names _____ your names _____ your

B names _____ your names _____ your

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Piano accompaniment for measures 83-86, featuring a right-hand melody with chords and a left-hand bass line.

87

S names _____ your names _____

A names _____ your names _____

T names _____ your names _____

B names _____ your names _____

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Piano accompaniment for measures 87-90, featuring a right-hand melody with chords and a left-hand bass line.

Slow and reflective

91 *mf*

S Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

A Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

T Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

B Kum Bu - ba Ya - li Kum Bu - ba Tam - be Kum Bu - ba Ya -

Slow and reflective

91 *mf*

Piano accompaniment for measures 91-95, featuring chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

96

S *mp* li star - dust

A *mp* li star - dust

T *mp* li star - dust

B *mp* li star - dust

96

Piano accompaniment for measures 96-100, featuring chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

101

S If we are

A For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. If we are

T If we are

B If we are

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101

Piano accompaniment for measures 101-104, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

105

S If we are

A For perusal purposes only. Do not copy. If we are

T If we are

B If we are

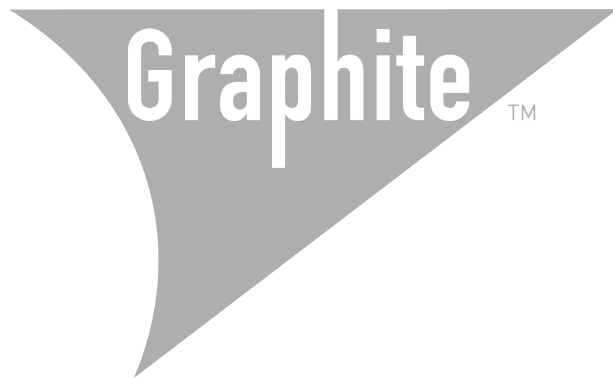
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105

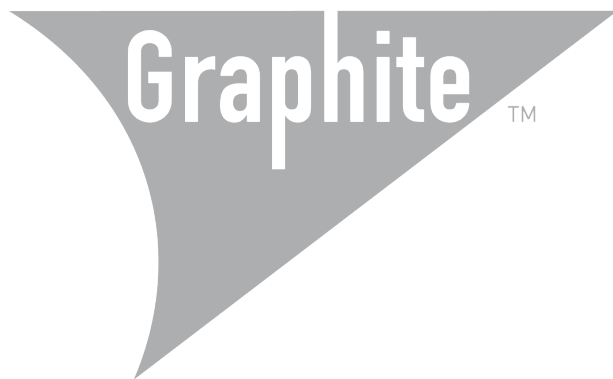
Piano accompaniment for measures 105-108, continuing the rhythmic pattern from the previous section.

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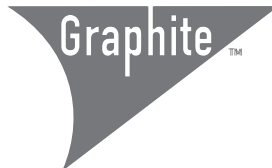
B.E. Boykin



Brittney Boykin (B.E. Boykin) first pursued her interest in music during her time at Spelman College, attending classes that inspired and challenged her musical imagination and peaked her interest in composition. After graduating with a B.A. in Music, Boykin continued her studies while attending Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey, graduating with a M.M. in Sacred Music and receiving the R & R Young Composition Prize. Boykin has been commissioned and collaborated with several organizations, including a number of ACDA divisions, the Minnesota Opera and the Kennedy Center. She obtained her PhD from Georgia State University with an emphasis in Music Education and is currently an Assistant Professor of Music at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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