

THE STAR RIDDLE

Two-Part Treble Voices (Partner Songs) with Piano

Sherry Blevins

BriLee Music
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Part-by-Part 

For Accompaniment and Rehearsal Audio
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Ranges:



Language: English

Use: General

Time: Approx. 3:32

*Difficulty: Moderate

I was inspired to compose this piece several years ago when my brother, Jason Blevins, shared a riddle that my niece, Marian, (then 8 years old) had written just for fun. I was so taken with it that I wondered if she had written it by herself. He assured me that she had and sent me an image including brightly colored construction paper cut into stars, comets, and a moon pasted onto a black sky. The words read:



*Right up in the sky is where you will see me lie.
All of us so bright, you can only see us in the night.
Oh, all of us near and far, I wish I could see you where you are.
Who am I?*

And then under a flap of construction paper that said “answer” it read,
“I am a star.”

Lyricist, Marian Blevins (pictured at age 9)

A new melody came to me as soon as I read it, so I was excited to get to work composing. Since I wanted this piece to be accessible for younger singers, I knew I wanted to write a partner song to accompany Marian’s part. I immediately thought how fun it would be to create a new melody using the words to “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” After going down quite the rabbit hole and with the help of my former college student, now friend and wonderful academic librarian, Alyssa Nance, I learned that before it was a song, it was a poem written in 1806. It was then called “The Star” as a part of a collection called *Rhymes for the Nursery* by Jane Taylor.

According to James J. Fuld in his text, *The Book of World-Famous Music*, the tune and words we all know as “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” were likely first printed together in *The Singing Master No. III First Class Tune-Book* in London in 1838. I had always heard that Mozart composed the melody. This is incorrect. The original melody comes from a French folk song called “Ah! Vous Dirai-Je, Maman.” Mozart wrote 12 variations for piano based on the French melody in 1778 when he was 21.

About the Composer

Sherry Blevins believes that music education has the power to positively shape and transform lives. She is a music educator, conductor, clinician, and more recently, a lyricist and composer. Since 2017, she has been honored to compose for a variety of singers and ensembles across North America including the West Vancouver School District Honour Choirs, Tennessee All-State Treble Choir, renowned soprano, Rebecca Cook-Carter, the Piedmont Invitational Choral Festival, South Carolina Music Educators National Conference Clinic, Young Voices of the Carolinas, St. Andrews University, and many other all-county and honors choirs. According to Vincent Oakes, Past-President of the American Choral Directors Association - Southern Division and Artistic Director of the Chattanooga Boys Choir, “Sherry Blevins’ music is as engaging and enriching for the singer as it is enjoyable for the listener.... With beautifully crafted melodies, tuneful harmonies, and supportive accompaniments, her compositions should find a preferred place with more choirs in the near future.”

The winner of the 2018 Claremont Chorale’s Composition Contest, Blevins has also been selected for two consecutive years as a composing fellow at the CORO Composer’s Institute in Iowa. She was invited to conduct the ACDA Treble Honor Choir which sang her composition, *A Tapestry of Music* (SSA) for the 2020 Southern Region ACDA Conference in Alabama.

Aside from composing, Sherry frequently serves as clinician for honor choirs, adjudicator for festivals, and holds workshops on choral techniques, composing with choirs, and the motivation of singers.

Blevins has a bachelor’s degree in Music Education with a concentration in voice from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a master’s degree in Music Education with a concentration in Choral Conducting from Appalachian State University. She currently supervises student teachers for ASU where she was selected for the Outstanding Adjunct Teaching Award for the College of Education. She currently resides in Huntersville, North Carolina. For more information or to contact Sherry, go to sherryblevinsmusic.com.

poco rall.**a tempo***p*

21

far, I wish I could see you where you are. Who am I? _____

26 *mp***rall.***mf*

Who am I? _____ Who am I? _____ I am a _____

30 **a tempo****poco rall.**

star. _____

35 **a tempo****rall.**

Twin - kle, twin - kle, lit - tle star, _____

39 **a tempo**
mp * *mf*

How I won - der where you are! Up a-bove the

44 **poco rall.** **a tempo**
p

world so high, like a dia-mond in the sky. Twin-kle, twin - kle.

49 *mp* *mf*

Twin-kle, twin - kle. Twin - kle lit - tle star.

54 **poco rall.**

8va-----1

*Stagger breathe which means to breathe at a different time than your neighbor. The best place to do this is in the middle of a longer note. It creates the illusion that the entire phrase is in one breath.

a tempo58 **Part 1**
mp

Right up in the sky is where you will see me lie. All of us so

Part 2 *mp*

Twin - kle, twin - kle, lit - tle star. How I

a tempo

mp

63

bright, You can on-ly see us in the night. Oh, all of us near and far, I wish I could

won - der where you are. Up a-bove the world so high like a

mf

68

poco rall.**a tempo**

see you where you are. Who am I? Who am I?

dia-mond in the sky. Twin-kle, twin - kle. Twin-kle,

poco rall.**a tempo**

p *mp*

73 *mf*

Who am I? I am a star.

twin - kle. Twin - kle lit - tle star.

mf

78 **rall.** *mf* **A little slower**

Who am I? I am a star.

Twin - kle lit - tle star.

rall. **A little slower** *mf*

83 **rall.**

rall. *8va*

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