

# WHO I WANT TO BE

SSA Voices with Piano


Coty Raven Morris

Arranged by  
Saleel Menon

*BriLee Music*  
**Part-by-Part** 

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Ranges:



Sop 1  Sop 2   
Alto 

Language: English

Use: General

Time: Approx. 3:05

\*Difficulty: Moderate

## Notes

This text came to me in the fall of 2020 while teaching at Crosby High School in Crosby, Texas. My students, though enthusiastic to be back in Choir, were struggling to cope with the civil unrest around them, in addition to the pandemic. When considering how I could help them navigate this time, I realized that they were in need of some sort of consistency, of feeling grounded in themselves. In our time of focus on our building of community and citizenship, this text and tune came to mind - each phrase highlighting an element of personal and community wellness.

I lead with my spirit keeping love in the circle around me. (Social)  
 Expressing my spirit (Occupational)  
 Loving what I can see and cannot see, I'll take care of the vessel I am in (Physical)  
 I love with me that's under the skin (Emotional)  
 Taking care of my mind (Intellectual)  
 Envisioning the me I want to be (Spiritual)

I had the honor of collaborating with composer/educator Saleel Menon to create the beautiful piano accompaniment and SSA setting.

*Who I Want to Be* opens with a solo functioning as a mantra throughout the tune. As the piece continues, voices join in unison and harmony to emphasize the intent.

When the repeats in mm 48-51 occur, invite students to share some of their own mantras and affirmations, or feel free to borrow from the words my students in the Crosby HS choir inspired me to write:

Allow yourself grace	I believe in myself - love your truth
I am persistent	I'm lost, just waiting to be found
I am fragile, not broken	I see you
You we worthy of success	It's okay to not be okay
I am worthy	Breathe
The only validation I need is my own	I love and I am loved

Prepare yourself for not only a powerful performance, but a rewarding experience and conversations with your students. THIS is the piece you want stuck in your students' heads!

### About the Composer

Coty Raven Morris is a proud alumnus of Texas State University. She received her Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

She is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Choir, Music Education, and Social Justice at Portland State University. Prior to this, she was the Director of Choirs at Crosby High School, served as Outreach Choir Director at the MSU Community Music School and Music Director at Grand Ledge United Methodist Church. Her choirs received consistent Sweepstakes & Division I ratings at UIL and choral festivals. Morris was the recipient of the Hays CISD Linebarger Academic Recognition Award for 2013 & Galena Park ISD's Dazzling Diamond Award in 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018 for outstanding mentorship and leadership in her field.

Coty is the founder of *Being Human Together*, a budding music education community striving to normalize difficult topics in the field of music through conversation and connection. BHT seeks to discuss traditionally taboo topics like mental health, systemic oppression, diversity, and inclusivity. *And... She is also an avid boxer!*

### About the Arranger

Saleel Menon is an Indian-American choral director and composer. Prior to his graduate studies at Michigan State University, he directed high school choirs in Texas. Specializing in non-traditional choral pedagogy, Menon co-authored an article published in the Music Educators Journal on popular music in 2019, and has presented sessions across the country at music education conferences. In 2020, Menon received the Texas Choral Directors Association's Young Director of Distinction Award. He is active as a clinician, composer, accompanist, and performer.

# Who I Want To Be

for SSA Voices with Piano

COTY RAVEN MORRIS

Arranged by Saleel Menon

Unhurried, celebrating yourself

Solo Voice

*mp*

I lead with my spi - rit keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

Piano

*mp*

5

round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit lo - ving what I can see and can -

9

not see. I take care of the ves - sel I'm in, I love the me that's un - der this

13

skin, tak - ing care of my mind, en - vi - sion - ing the me I want to be.

*mf*

17 All Voices *mf*

I lead with my spi - rit \_\_\_\_\_ keep - ing

love in the cir - cle a - round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit \_\_\_\_\_

lo - ving what I can see and can - not see. I take

care of the ves - sel I'm in, I love the me that's un - der this

37

round me, Ex-pres - sing my spi - rit lov - ing

me! Oh

me! Oh

me! Oh

40

what I can see and can - not see! I take care of the ves - sel I'm

can - - not see. Ah

can - - not see. Ah

can - - not see. Ah

43

in, I love the me that's un - der this

In this

In this

In this

45

skin, tak-ing care of my mind, en - vi - sion-ing the me I want to be.

skin.

skin.

skin. I lead with my

48

\*

*p poco a poco cresc.*

care of the ves-sel I'm in, I love the me that's un-der this

*p poco a poco cresc.*

en - vi - sion-ing the me, en - vi - sion-ing the me, en - vi - sion-ing the

*p poco a poco cresc.*

spi - rit Keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

*p poco a poco cresc.*

\* First time: Alto; Second Time: Soprano 2; Third time: Soprano 1  
Repeat until all prepared text has been spoken.

51

*f*

skin, I take care of the ves-sel I'm in, I love the

*f*

me I want to be, en - vi - sion-ing the me, en - vi - sion-ing the

*f*

round me, I lead with my spi - rit Keep - ing

*f*

54

me that's un-der this skin,  
me en - vi - sion-ing the me I want to be.  
love in the cir - cle a - round me,

57

*f* I lead with my  
*f* I lead with my  
*f* I lead with my  
*f* I lead with my  
*f* I lead with my

60

spi - rit keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

spi - rit keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

spi - rit keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

spi - rit keep - ing love in the cir - cle a -

Piano accompaniment for measures 60-62, featuring a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.

63

round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit lov - ing

round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit lov - ing

round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit lov - ing

round me, Ex - pres - sing my spi - rit lov - ing

Piano accompaniment for measures 63-65, continuing the melodic and harmonic themes from the previous section.

66

what I can see and can - not see. I take care of the ves-sel I'm

what I can see and can - not see. I take

what I can see and can - not see.

what I can see and can - not see.

*f*

69

in, I love the me that's un-der this skin,

care of the ves-sel I'm in, I love the me that's un-der this

*f*

I take care of the ves-sel I'm in, I love the

*f*

I take care of the ves-sel I'm

rit.

a tempo

*mf*

musical score for measures 72-74, including vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

Lyrics: tak-ing care of my skin, me that's un-der this skin, in, I love the me that's un-der this skin,

Tempo markings: rit., a tempo

Dynamic markings: *mf*

musical score for measures 75-78, including vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

Lyrics: mind, en - vi - sion-ing the me I want to be.

Tempo marking: a tempo

Dynamic markings: *mp*

Vocalizations: Ah

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