

SAB

CM9730
Spark of Light / Andrew Steffen
SAB Voices with Piano
Duration: 2:48

Spark of Light

Andrew Steffen



Soprano



Alto



Bass



CARL FISCHER
Celebrating 150 Years

About

Jónas Halgrímsson (1807-1845) was an Icelandic poet, author and naturalist, who is considered one of Iceland's most renowned poets. Considered a Romantic writer, the strong imagery in his poetry was influenced heavily by the landscapes around him.

The imagery, excitement, and curiosity of the universe leapt off the page and the music almost wrote itself. Reflecting on the cosmos and origin of the heavens, "the poetry illicit excitement and stirs spatial imagery - "...speeding spark of light", "...wings swifter than wind...", "...I watched the stars...rise from the still stream of heaven...". The pure and almost child-like fascination with the universe and its expansion and progression fuels the perpetual rhythm of the work as it continually pushes forward. " <https://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/Jonas/Alheim/Alheim.html>

A good friend asked if I would write a song for her ensemble. The parameters were that it had to be three-part with a limited range in the Bass part. With these stipulations I began to write. I searched for something that would be exciting for them and landed on Jonas Halgrímsson's writings. There is such a need for three-part music that is both exciting, accessible, and challenging.

Director's Note

Truly consider how the work can come to 'life' off the page. Rise and fall with phrase and sometimes each note. The magic exists beyond the ink on the page!

Consideration to range, tessitura, and content was all considered as part of this process in creating music that is accessible to all programs and ensembles.

Accompaniment Note

The accompaniment can look intimidating, but please feel free to alter the pulsing eighth notes in the left hand with the eighth notes in the right-hand so it creates a compound rhythm. So long as the momentum of the work is pressed onward, you are doing this work justice.

About the Composer

Andrew Steffen is an American educator, conductor, and composer and resides in the Dallas/Fort Worth area (Texas). He teaches secondary Choral music at a local high school north of Fort Worth. He has conducted throughout the United States, and had his works performed across the world. In 2014, he won the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Competition, sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association.

He studied conducting and composition with Dr. Z. Randall Stroope at Oklahoma State University and received his Bachelor in Music Education from UW-Eau Claire. (www.apsteffen.com)

Spark of Light

for SAB Voices with Piano

JÓNAS HALLGRÍMSSON
The Vastness of the Universe

ANDREW STEFFEN

Kinetic and perpetual ♩ = 140-152

Piano

p *mp*

The piano introduction consists of two systems of music. The first system shows the right hand playing a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and the left hand playing a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system continues the melodic line in the right hand and the accompaniment in the left hand, with a dynamic change from *p* to *mp*.

f

The piano accompaniment continues with a dynamic change to *f*. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth-note patterns, while the left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

7 Soprano *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

Alto *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

Bass *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

The vocal parts enter at measure 7. The Soprano, Alto, and Bass parts all sing the same lyrics: "I am the speed - ing spark of light". Each part has a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, matching the piano introduction.

mp

The piano accompaniment continues with a dynamic change to *mp*. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth-note patterns, while the left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

10

f flung by God from the forge of Cha - os.

f flung by God from the forge of Cha - os.

f flung by God from the forge of Cha - os.

13

mf I soar on wings swift - er than wind a -

mf I soar on wings swift - er than wind a -

mf I soar on wings swift - er than wind a -

17

bove the paths of the pul - sing stars

bove the paths of the pul - sing stars

bove the paths of the pul - sing stars

20

mp *cresc.*
Fast - er! fast-er! to find the place

mp *cresc.*
Fast - er! fast-er! to find the place

mp *cresc.*
Fast-er! fast - er! to find the place

23

Fast - er! fast - er! where cos - mic waves crash a -

Fast - er! fast - er! where cos - mic waves crash a -

Fast - er! fast - er! where cos - mic waves crash a -

f

26

shore_ on the edge of_ heav'n_

- shore_ on the edge of_ heav'n_

shore on the edge of_ heav'n_ Ah

p

38

rise from the still streams of hea - ven

42

p *cresc.*

Ea - ger to make their mil - lion year race through the

cresc.

Ea - ger to make their mil - lion year race through the

cresc.

46

Three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "thin e - the - re - al blue." The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*.

mf *f*
thin e - the - re - al blue.

mf *f*
thin e - the - re - al blue.

mf *f*
thin e - the - re - al blue.

mf *f*

50

Three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have the vocalization "Ah". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*.

p
Ah

p

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole note G4, followed by a whole rest, then a half note G4, and a half note A4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The word "Ah" is written below the vocal line.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole note G4, followed by a whole note A4, and a whole note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *mf*. The word "Ah" is written below the vocal line.

61

Musical score for measures 61-63. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics "Ah" and dynamic markings *mf* and *f*. The piano part has a watermark "For promotional use only".

64

Musical score for measures 64-66. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a watermark "For promotional use only".

68

f sempre
Fast - er! fast-er! to find the place,

f sempre
Fast - er! fast-er! to find the place,

f sempre
Fast-er! fast - er! to find the place,

f sempre

71

Fast - er! where No-thing-ness reigns and Cha - os wen-ding* my

Fast - er! where No-thing-ness reigns and Cha - os wen-ding* my

Fast-er! fast - er! where no-thing-ness reigns and Cha - os wen-ding* my

* Wending: going in a specific direction, usually indirectly and slowly.

74

Musical score for measures 74-77. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are "way _" for the vocal parts and "way" for the bass part. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

78

Musical score for measures 78-81. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are "Fast - er" and "fast - er" for the vocal parts. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines, with a *mf* dynamic marking. A large red watermark "For promotional use only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "fast - er" repeated twice in each measure. The piano part consists of a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the second measure of each vocal staff and in the piano part.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The score continues in the same key signature and time signature. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "fast - er" repeated twice in each measure. The piano part continues with the same rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the piano part.

87

p Ah,

p Ah,

p Ah,

p

90

mp Ah,

mp

93

mp

Ah, _____

mp

Ah, _____

97

mf

Ah, _____

f

Ah, _____

mf

Ah, _____

f

Ah, _____

mf

Ah, _____

f

Ah, _____

mf

f

ISBN 978-1-4911-6109-8



9 781491 161098 >



CARL FISCHER
www.carlfischer.com

CM9730

UPC



6 80160 91969 7