

CM9747
Spark of Light / Andrew Steffen
SSA Voices with Piano
Duration: 3:04

Spark of Light

Andrew Steffen



CARL FISCHER

Performance Notes

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 elicits 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.

A good friend asked if I would write a song for her ensemble. The original voicing, for SAB choir, contained parameters in 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 Halgrimsson's writings. I believe it is equally as exciting, accessible and challenging for treble choirs.

Note to the Director

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

SSA Voices* with Piano

JÓNAS HALLGRÍMSSON
The Vastness of the Universe

ANDREW STEFFEN

Kinetic and perpetual ♩ = 140

Piano

p *mp*

f

7 Soprano 1 *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

Soprano 2 *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

Alto *mp*

I am the speed - ing spark of light

mp

* Also available for SAB Voices (CM9730) and TBB Voices (CM9751).

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.

f

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 -

mf

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

mp *cresc.*

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 -

shore_ on the edge of heav'n Ah

shore_ on the edge of heav'n

shore_ on the edge of heav'n

26

shore_ on the edge of heav'n Ah

shore_ on the edge of heav'n

shore_ on the edge of heav'n

38

rise from the still streams of hea - - ven

42

p Eager to make their mil - lion year race through the *cresc.*

Eager to make their mil - lion year race through the *cresc.*

cresc.

46

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

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

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

For promotional use only

50

p Ah

For promotional use only

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts include lyrics "Ah" and dynamic markings *mp* and *p*. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts include lyrics "Ah" and dynamic markings *mf*. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line.

61

f Ah

f Ah

mf Ah

f Ah

64

64

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

way —

way —

way —

78

mf

Fast - er fast - er

mf

Fast - er fast - er

mf

Fast - er fast - er

mf

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts consist of three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) with lyrics "fast - er" under each note. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand part with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present above the vocal staves and below the piano accompaniment staff.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts consist of three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) with lyrics "fast - er" under each note. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand part with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present above the vocal staves and below the piano accompaniment staff.

87

Musical score for measures 87-89. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 87 with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the vocalization "Ah,". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar eighth-note pattern in the left hand. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

90

Musical score for measures 90-92. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 90 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and the vocalization "Ah,". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note patterns from the previous section. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

mp
Ah,
mp
Ah,

mf
Ah,
mf
Ah,
mf
Ah,
mf
Ah,
f
Ah,
f
Ah,
f
Ah,
f
Ah,

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