

CM9751
Spark of Light / Andrew Steffen
TBB 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 Halgrímsson's writings. I believe it is equally as exciting, accessible and challenging for tenor-bass choirs.

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

TBB Voices* with Piano

JÓNAS HALLGRÍMSSON
The Vastness of the Universe

ANDREW STEFFEN

Kinetic and perpetual ♩ = 140

Piano

4

7

mp

I am the speed - ing spark of light

mp

I am the speed - ing spark of light

mp

I am the speed - ing spark of light

mp

* Also available for SAB Voices (CM9730) and SSA Voices (CM9747).

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

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

mp Fast-er! *cresc.* 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 -

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 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

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

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

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

mf *f*

50

p Ah

p

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The score is in 8/8 time and features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a bass line (bass clef), a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs), and a second bass line (bass clef). The vocal line begins with a whole note G5, followed by a rest, and then a melodic phrase starting on G5 with a *mp* dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and chords in the treble. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score continues in 8/8 time and the same key signature. It consists of four staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a bass line (bass clef), a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs), and a second bass line (bass clef). The vocal line starts with a whole note G5, followed by a rest, and then a melodic phrase starting on G5 with a *mf* dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns and chords. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

61

Musical score for measures 61-63. The score is in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics "Ah" and dynamic markings *f*. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment with dynamic markings *mf* and *f*. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

64

Musical score for measures 64-66. The score is in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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 8/8. The vocal parts are simple, with the lyrics "way _" written below each staff. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

78

Musical score for measures 78-81. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have the lyrics "Fast - er" and "fast - er" with accents (>) above the notes. The piano accompaniment includes a *mf* dynamic marking and features a more active melodic line in the right hand.

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The score is in 8/8 time and consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) sing the lyrics "fast - er" in a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more complex melodic line in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in the piano part.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The score continues from the previous system, maintaining the same key signature and time signature. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics "fast - er". The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic eighth-note bass line and melodic right hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is also present in the piano part.

87

p
Ah,

p
Ah,

p
Ah,

p

This section contains measures 87 and 88. It features a vocal line in the upper staff with a melodic line starting on a whole note and moving through eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*).

90

mp
Ah,

mp

This section contains measures 90 and 91. The vocal line begins with a whole note rest followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (*mp*).

93

Musical score for measures 93-96. It features a vocal line with a long melisma starting on measure 93, marked *mp*. Below the vocal line are two piano accompaniment staves, also marked *mp*. The piano part includes a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

97

Musical score for measures 97-100. The vocal line has two phrases, each marked *mf* and *f* respectively, with the word "Ah," written below. The piano accompaniment is also marked *mf* and *f*. The piano part continues with a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature remains three sharps.

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