

ACROSS THE VAST, ETERNAL SKY
Gjeilo

SSAATTBB, accompanied

WW1494

ACROSS THE VAST ETERNAL SKY

SSAATTBB with Piano and Optional String Quartet

Music by
Ola Gjeilo

Text by
Charles Anthony Silvestri

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About the Work

When Ola first approached me about a text for this piece we discussed several premises, including beginning with the last line of a previous collaboration, *Tundra*. The line, "Across the vast, eternal sky," was the starting point of a discussion which eventually came around to the idea of a phoenix, a twist on the theme of rebirth (and the subject of other collaborations with Ola). The legend of the firebird offered creative opportunities to explore the themes of spiritual growth and renewal.

It is interesting how a piece of music takes shape, especially one which is the product of dynamic collaboration. Ola shared with me some early musical material with which he was already experimenting, and I began to write a lyric to match what he had given me. The current opening words and subsequent reprise were originally the bridge section of a slightly larger work of five different stanzas to match three distinct melodic themes. Later, the musical material containing the first two stanzas were cut from the final version - this shaping and reshaping of a work is an exciting and vital part of the collaborative process. Perhaps, like the phoenix, that lost material will be reborn as part of another work.

-Charles Anthony Silvestri

Across the Vast, Eternal Sky

*Weary, I fly,
Across the vast eternal sky,
High in the heavens,
Where awaits my destiny.*

*Grey skies are thickening;
Soon now my time will come,
Time to return home
'Cross the vast eternal sky.*

When I was young I flew in the velvet night;
Shining by day, a firebird bathed in light!
Grey now my feathers, which once were red and gold;
My destiny to soar up to the sunlight!

Sunlight shines on my face;
This is my grace, to be
Restored, born again,
In flame!

Do not despair that I am gone away;
I will appear again
When the sunset paints
Flames across the vast eternal sky!

-Charles Anthony Silvestri

About the Composer

Ola Gjeilo was born in Norway in 1978 and moved to the United States in 2001 to begin his composition studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he currently resides and works as a full-time composer.

Ola's recordings include the Decca Classics albums *Ola Gjeilo* and *Winter Songs*, featuring Tenebrae, Voces8 and the Choir of Royal Holloway. His choral and piano works are published by Walton Music, wind band works by Boosey & Hawkes.

For more information, please visit olagjeilo.com or find Ola on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Duration: approx. 4:10

Commissioned by and dedicated to the Salt Lake Vocal Artists / Salt Lake Choral Artists,
Dr. Brady Allred, Conductor

Across The Vast, Eternal Sky

SSAATTBB, Piano, Optional String Quartet*

Lyrics by
CHARLES A. SILVESTRI

Music by
OLA GJEILO

mp $\text{♩} = 56$

Soprano 1
Sun - light _____ shines on my face; _____

Soprano 2
Sun - light _____ shines on my face; _____

Alto 1
Sun - light shines _____ on my face;

Alto 2
Sun - light shines, _____ shines on my face;

Tenor 1
Sun - light _____ shines, _____ shines on my face; _____ This, _____

Tenor 2
Sun - light shines _____ on my face;

Bass 1
Sun - light shines on my face;

Bass 2
mp
A - cross the vast e - ter - nal sky, a - cross the vast e - ter - nal

Piano
mf $\text{♩} = 56$ string reduction

* Separate full score and string parts are available. Order number WW1494A

molto rit. - - -

5

S1 This is my grace, — to — be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

S2 This is my grace, — to — be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

A1 This is my grace, to — be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

A2 This is my grace, to be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

T1 This is my grace, — to — be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

T2 This is my grace, to be — Re - stored, born a - gain, In

B1 This is my grace, to be — Re - stored, born a - gain, In

B2 sky, This is my grace, to be Re - stored, born a - gain, In

Pno. 5 *molto rit. - - -*

8 *pp* **A** ♩ = 50

S1
flame! _____

S2
flame! _____

A1
flame! _____

A2
flame! _____

T1
8
flame! _____

T2
8
flame! _____

B1
pp
flame! _____

B2
pp
flame! _____

Pno.
8 *pp* **A** ♩ = 50
p
3 3
(apply sustain pedal at own discretion)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2) are arranged in a grand staff with treble clefs. Each part begins with a melodic line in 6/8 time, marked *pp* (pianissimo), and includes the lyric "flame!". A dashed line above the first vocal staff indicates a measure rest for 8 measures. The piano part is in a grand staff with both treble and bass clefs. It begins with a melodic line in the right hand, marked *pp*, and a bass line in the left hand. A measure rest for 8 measures is indicated above the piano staff. The score then transitions to a section marked **A** with a tempo of ♩ = 50. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets in the right hand and chords in the left hand, marked *p* (piano). A note at the end of the piano part indicates to "apply sustain pedal at own discretion".

12

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

17

S. *pp*

A. *pp*

T. *pp*

B. *pp*

Pno.

21

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

24

rit. B a tempo

S. When I was young I flew in the

A. When I was

T. When I was

B. When I was

rit. B a tempo ^{8va}

Pno.

27

S. vel - vet night; Shi - ning by

A. young I flew. Shi -

T. young I flew. Shi -

B. young I flew. Shi -

Pno.

27 (8^{va})

30 *mf*

S. day, a fi - re - bird bathed in light!

A. ning by day, in light! *mf*

T. ning by day, in light! *mf*

B. ning by day, in light! *mf*

Pno.

30 *f*

33 *mp*

S. Grey now my fea - thers, which once were red and

A. *mp* Grey now my fea -

T. *mp* Grey now my fea -

B. *mp* Grey now my fea -

Pno. *mf*

36

S. gold; My des - ti - ny to

A. thers, des - ti - ny to

T. thers, des - ti - ny to

B. thers, des - ti - ny to

Pno.

rit. ----- C ♩ = 63 *f*

S. 39
soar up to the Sun -

A. 39
soar up to the Sun -

T. 8
soar up to the Sun -

B. 39
soar up to the Sun -

rit. ----- C ♩ = 63 *f*

Pno. 39

S. 42
- - light

A. 42
- - light shines,

T. 8
- - light shines,

B. 42
- - light

Pno. 42

45

S. shines on my face; _____

A. shines on my face; _____

T. shines on my face; _____

B. shines on my face; _____

Pno.

48

S. — This is my

A. This, This is my

T. This, This is my

B. — This is my

Pno.

51

S1
S2
A1
A2
T1
T2
B1
B2

grace, _____ to _____ be Re - stored, born a -

Pno.

poco rit. -----

54

S1
gain, In flame!

S2
gain, In flame!

A1
gain, In flame!

A2
gain, In flame!

T1
gain, In flame!

T2
gain, In flame!

B1
gain, In flame!

B2
gain, In flame!

Pno.

54

poco rit. -----

D a tempo

57 *ff*

S1 Sun - light shines

S2 Sun - light shines

A1 Sun - light shines

A2 Sun - light shines, shines

T1 Sun - light shines, shines

T2 Sun - light shines

B1 Sun - light shines

B2 Sun - light shines

Pno. **D** a tempo

57 *ff*

62

S1
on my face; _____ This is my

S2
on my face; _____ This is my

A1
on my face; _____ This is my

A2
on my face; _____ This is my

T1
on my face; _____ This, _____ This is my

T2
on my face; _____ This is my

B1
on my face; _____ This is my

B2
on my face; _____ This is my

Pno
62

67

S. grace, _____ to be _____ Re - stored, *f*

A. grace, _____ to be _____ Re - stored, *f*

T. ₈ grace, _____ to be _____ Re - stored, *f*

B. grace, _____ to be _____ Re - stored, *f*

Pno. *f*

72

S. born a gain, _____ In _____ *mf* *p*

A. born a - gain, _____ In _____ *mf* *p*

T. ₈ born a - gain, _____ In _____ *mf* *p*

B. born a - gain, _____ In _____ *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

76 rit. -----

S. flame.

A. flame.

T. flame.

B. flame.

Pno.

81 E ♩ = 50

S. Do

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

85

S. *mp*
not de - spair that I am gone a - way;

A. *pp* *mp*
Do not de - spair that I am gone a - way;

T. *pp* *mp*
Do not de - spair that I am gone a - way;

B. *pp* *mp*
Do not de - spair that I am gone a - way;

Pno. *mf*

89

S. I will ap - pear a - gain When the sun - set

A. I will ap - pear a - gain When the sun - set

T. I will ap - pear a - gain When the sun - set

B. I will ap - pear a - gain When the sun - set

Pno.

92

S. paints Flames a - cross the

A. paints Flames a - cross the

T. 8 paints Flames a - cross the

B. paints Flames a - cross the

Pno. 92

rit. a tempo

95 *p* vast e - ter - nal sky. *pp*

S. vast e - ter - nal

A. *p* vast e - ter - nal

T. 8 *p* vast e - ter - nal

B. *p* vast e - ter - nal

Pno. 95 *mp* a tempo

(Half the choir sings 'sky', while other half sings 'Mmm')

98 rit. *pp*

S. sky. *pp*

A. sky. *pp*

T. sky. *pp*

B. sky. *pp*

Pno. *mp* *p* (softly, but loud enough to be heard clearly)

102

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

