



The Anton Armstrong Choral Series
 a series of multi-cultural choral music
 Anton Armstrong, Editor
 St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Flight Song

a setting for satb & piano

music by

Kim André Arnesen

words by

Euan Tait

Argentina	
Waynápáq Taki	ssaattbb
Cameroon	
Praise the Lord	satb & percussion
Canada	
Gate Gate	satb or ssa & piano
Caribbean	
Kyrie	satb, steel drum, piano, & percussion
China	
Pengyou, Ting!	satb or tbb & finger cymbals
Ireland	
She Moved Through the Fair	T & ssatbb
Israel	
Ani Ma'amin	unison, narrator, violin (opt.), piano
Kenya	
Natufurahi Siku Ya Leo	satb & percussion
Sigalagala	satb & percussion
Vamuvamba	satb & percussion
Netherlands	
Nu zijt welkome Jesu	ssaattbb
New Zealand	
Hine e Hine	ssaattbb
Norway	
Norge, mitt Norge	satb
Flight Song	satb & piano
South Korea	
Nodle Kangbyon	2- to 4-part treble & piano
Sweden	
Domaredansen	satb & piano (opt.)
Taiwan	
Fa Shu Ha	satb
United States	
Go Where I Send Thee!	ssa, sat, ssatb, or tbb & piano
The Hills are Bare	S, satb, & piano
Three Rhymes – Set I	unison or 2-part treble, flute, & piano
Three Rhymes – Set II	unison or 2-part treble, flute, & piano
Here's a Pretty Little Baby	S or T, satb, flute, steel drum, percussion, synth, & bass
The Duel	unison or 2- or 3-part treble, oboe, & piano
Praise His Holy Name	ssa or satb & piano
Hope for Resolution	2- or 3-part treble or satb, sop, sax, percussion & piano
Shaker Songs	satb or ssa
Spiritual Songs	satb
John the Revelator	ssaattbb & piano
Amazing Grace	satb & piano
Ol' Time Religion	satb & piano
The Darkling Thrush	SAT & satb
Ain't No Grave	satb or ssa & piano
Let Everything That Hath Breath	S (opt.), satb, bass, percussion (opt.), & piano
The Ocean of Peace	ssaattbb
Daniel in the Lion Den	S, satb, & piano
Christ the Appletree	satb
The Cloths of Heaven	satb or ssa & piano
This House of Peace	satb, oboe, & piano
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	satb, obbe, & piano
Wales	
Suo Gân	T & ttbb

earth songs

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Text

All we are, we have found in song:
you have drawn this song from us.
Songs of lives unfolding
fly overhead, cry overhead:
longing, rising from the song within.

Moving like the rise and fall of wings,
hands that shape our calling voice
on the edge of answers
you've heard our cry, you've known our cry:
music's fierce compassion flows from you.

The night is restless with the sounds we hear,
is broken, shaken by the cries of pain:

for this is music's inner voice,
saying, yes, we hear you,
all you who cry aloud,
and we will fly, answering you:
so our lives sing, sing,
wild we will fly,
wild in spirit we will fly.

Like a feather falling from the wing,
fragile as a human voice,
afraid, uncertain,
alive to love, we sing as love,
afraid, uncertain,
yet our flight begins as song.

Program Notes

Flight Song was written as a gift to Dr. Anton Armstrong and the St. Olaf Choir. I had the pleasure of working with Armstrong and his choir in 2013 and their performance of my piece *Even when He is silent* was sublime. I was impressed not only by the artistic work, but also the personal development and safe environment Armstrong has given to so many young singers. With this piece I want to show my gratitude for their performances on tours all over Norway and the United States.

Kim André Arnesen

This is the first piece on which Kim and I worked together. I live in a house that overlooks two great British rivers, the Wye and the Severn, and the air is constantly alive with the sound of seabird wings and calls, so when Kim came to me with the idea of writing a piece for these amazing young musicians, the idea of flight as a metaphor for the beginning of a young adult life—and as a tribute to a great conductor—came to me first. A human life preparing to take off, and the movements of a conductor's arm like the beating of a soul's great wings, are images at the heart of this piece.

Euan Tait

The Welsh-Scottish poet and librettist **Euan Tait** was born in Berlin in 1968. His house overlooks two of the UK's greatest border rivers, the Wye and the Severn; his work is alive with the imagery of water, fire, and birdsong. He worked in the L'Arche community with people with learning disabilities in the 1990s, then ran work training programs in the 2000s. He now lectures in English and Creative Writing, runs retreats exploring the inner life of great choral works, and has developed various libretti projects with US and other choral composers, including a major choral symphony text with music by Paul Spicer, *Unfinished Remembering*, first performed in one of the UK's top concert venues, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, in September 2014. He has worked with Kim Andre Arnesen on several projects since 2014.



<http://euantait.co.uk>



Kim André Arnesen grew up in Trondheim and started at the music school at the age of 6 playing the piano. At the age of 10 he started singing in the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir. He was later educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim. As a composer, he had his first performance in 1999 with the Boys' Choir. Since then he has written music that has been performed by choirs all around the world. Arnesen is an elected member of the Norwegian Society of Composers. In 2010, his first large scale work, the *Magnificat*, was commissioned and premiered by the Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir. In 2011 his choral piece, *Even when He is silent*, was commissioned and premiered during the St. Olaf Festival, Olavsfestdagene, in Trondheim. In April 2014, his *Requiem* was premiered by the Nidaros Cathedral Boy's Choir.

To the St. Olaf Choir and conductor Anton Armstrong
with admiration and thanks

Flight Song

Euan Tait

Kim André Arnesen

Flowing and flexible (♩ = c. 66)

S
A
T
B

Piano

p *mp* *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

6

S
A
T
B

mp *mp*

All we are we have found in song: you have drawn this song from us.

All we are we have found in song: you have drawn this song from us.

S
A
T
B

Songs of lives un - fold - ing fly o - ver-head, cry o - ver-head; long - ing, ris-ing

Songs of lives un - fold - ing fly o - ver-head, cry o - ver-head; long - ing, ris-ing

15

poco rit. *a tempo* *mp* *rit.*

S
A
T
B

from the song with - in.

from the song with - in.

Ah.

Ah.

A1: *mp*

A2: Ah.

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

20 *a tempo*
mp

S
Mov-ing like the rise and fall of wings, hands that shape our call-ing voice

A
Mov-ing like the rise and fall of wings, hands that shape our call-ing voice

T
mp
The rise and fall of wings, our call - ing

B
mp
Call-ing

a tempo

24 *mf* *mp*

S
on the edge of an - swers you've heard our cry, you've known our cry: mu - sic's fierce com - pas - sion

A
mf *mp*
on the edge of an - swers you've heard our cry, you've known our cry: mu - sic's fierce com - pas - sion

T
mf *mp*
voice, — of an - swers you've heard — our cry, — you've known our cry: — mu - sic's fierce com - pas - sion

B
mf *mp*
voice, of an - swers you've heard — our cry, you've known — our cry: mu - sic

mf *mp*

28

poco rit. *a tempo*
mf

S flows from you.

A flows from you.

T flows from you. The night is

B flows from you. The night is

poco rit. *a tempo* *f* *mp*

33

S Is bro-ken, shak-en by the cries of pain: for this is mu - sic's in-ner

A Is bro-ken, shak-en by the cries of pain: for this is mu - sic's in-ner

T rest-less with the sounds we hear, is bro-ken, shak-en by the cries of pain: for this is mu - sic's in-ner

B rest-less with the sounds we hear, is bro-ken, shak-en by the cries of pain: for this is mu - sic's in-ner

mf *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

molto rit. *a tempo*

S voice, say - ing yes, we hear you, all you who cry a - loud, and we will

A voice, say - ing yes, we hear you, all you who cry a - loud, and we will

T voice, — yes, we hear you, all you who cry a - loud, — and we will

B voice, yes, we hear you, all you who cry a - loud, and we will

f

molto rit. *a tempo*

f

S fly, an - swer - ing you, so our — lives sing, —

A fly, an - swer - ing you, so our — lives —

T fly, an - swer - ing you, — so our lives —

B fly, an - swer - ing you, so our lives

48

mp *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

S
sing, wild we will fly, wild in spir-it we will fly.

A
sing, sing, we will fly, wild in spir-it we will like a feath-er fall-ing from the

T
sing, sing, we will fly, wild in spir-it we will fly.

B
sing, sing, we will fly, wild in spir-it we will fly.

mp *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

53

mp

S
The wing, a voice, a -

A
wing, frag - ile as a hu - man voice, a - fraid, un - cer - tain, a -

T

B

mp

S
live to love, we sing as love, a - fraid, un - cer - tain, yet our flight be -

A
live to love, we sing as love, a - fraid, un - cer - tain, yet our flight be -

T
We sing as love, a - fraid, un - cer - tain, yet our flight be -

B
We sing as love, a - fraid, un - cer - tain, yet our flight be -

meno mosso *rit. al fine*

S
gins, be - gins as song.

A
gins as song.

T
gins as song.

B
gins as song.

meno mosso *rit. al fine* *pp relaxed*

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