



A CALL TO
Dream

by
Alex Gartner



Robyn Lana
Choral Series

About the composer

Alex Gartner (b. 1990) is the Artistic & Executive Director of the Pensacola Children's Chorus in Pensacola, Florida, and worked previously as the Assistant Director of the Cincinnati Youth Choir in his native Cincinnati, Ohio. He has held numerous leadership positions in several national arts organizations and holds degrees in music education and arts/cultural strategy from the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Florida, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Composer Notes

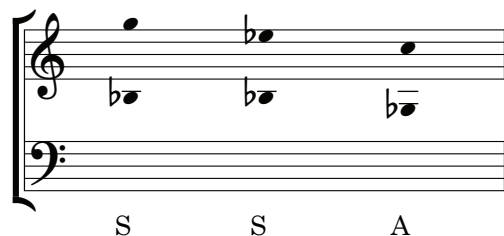
Having the honor of composing a piece to celebrate the retirement of Robyn Reeves Lana, founder and artistic director of the Cincinnati Youth Choir was a deeply special opportunity... and initially a quite daunting task. After months of searching, I was lucky to come across the perfect source of inspiration—a singer in Robyn's choirs, which have always been her pride and joy. CYC singer Adam Vest provided a sentimental text that captured Robyn's (Mrs. Lana's) impassioned journey of establishing CYC in 1993 and carefully nurturing its growth into one of the most innovative and internationally respected youth choirs in the United States and throughout the world.

After receiving the text and working with Adam to adapt it to music, it was clear that Mrs. Lana held a very respected place in his heart, and I too can relate. My CYC journey started as a young participant in CYC's local choir festivals and later continued as a staff accompanist, college intern, camp instructor, and finally as assistant director working side-by-side with Robyn—a tenure of over 6 years that I count among the most foundational of my career. The mentorship and leadership of Robyn Lana have greatly influenced my work as a professional youth choir conductor, and her friendship has made the journey all the richer. I am grateful for the opportunity to celebrate her 32-year tenure at the helm of CYC with this piece.

Robyn is an inspiration—one who has created a community where lasting friendships form, where stellar music-making is the status quo, and where individuals feel encouraged to trust themselves, make bold choices, and live their dreams.

That's a legacy worth celebrating!

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

For Robyn Lana, whose dream of the Cincinnati Youth Choir
provided a nest for so many to believe their wings and soar.

A Call to Dream

Lyrics Adapted from “Roots and Wings”
by Adam Vest

Music and Additional Lyrics
by Alex Gartner

With innocence and simplicity ♩ = 92

Piano *p*

Pedal harmonically except where dictated (Ped.)

6 See (or small group) *mp* **A**

It starts with a

13 seed whose roots grow deep That's wa - tered and nur - tured to thrive

(Ped.)

p

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19

close to "m"

— A sprout - ing cre - a - tion, in - com - m - plete un -

This system contains measures 19 through 24. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole rest in measure 19, followed by a half note G4, quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, and a half note G5 in measure 20. Measures 21-24 continue the vocal melody with various note values and rests. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a variety of chords and melodic lines, including a descending eighth-note scale in the right hand of measure 19 and sustained chords in the left hand.

25

Grounded ♩ = 108

furl - ing its height to the sky.

This system contains measures 25 through 29. The vocal line (treble clef) starts with a half note G4 in measure 25, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, and a half note G5 in measure 26. Measures 27-29 continue the vocal melody. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) includes a *mf* dynamic marking in measure 27 and features a mix of chords and moving lines in both hands.

30

This system contains measures 30 through 34. The vocal line (treble clef) consists of whole rests in measures 30-34. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) is more active, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a descending eighth-note scale in measure 30, followed by various chordal textures and melodic fragments in measures 31-34.

35 *mp* **B**

S It starts with a seed whose roots grow deep That's

S *mp* It starts with a seed whose roots grow deep That's

A *mp* It starts with a seed whose roots grow deep — That's

mp

40 *mf*

wa - tered and nur - tured to thrive — A sprout - ing cre -

wa - tered and — nur - tured to — thrive —

mf

wa - tered and nur - tured to — thrive — A sprout - ing cre -

45 *mp*

a - tion, un -

mp

in - com - plete un - furl - ing its height to the

mp

a - tion, un - furl - ing its height to the

50 *poco rit.*

furl - ing its height to the

sky un - furl - ing its height to the

sky un - furl - ing its height to the

Gaining momentum, accel. poco a poco

54 *f* *ff*

sky

sky

sky

sfz *loco*

8ba

58 In One ♩ = 60

62 *mf* *mf*

Sop I, II *mf*

S In the

A *mf*

A - top an - chor - ing roots

66

can - o - py high young nest - lings_ find their__

young nest - lings_ find their__

70

S song In the

S A - top an - chor - ing

A song A - top an - chor - ing roots

mf

mf

74

can - o - py high young nest - lings_ find their_

roots, can - o - py, nest - lings_ find their_

mf

In the branch - es nest - lings_ find their_

D

78

song In the can - o - py

song A - top roots in the can - o - py

song A - top an - chor - ing roots_

mp

1852-9

high! _____

high young nest - lings find their song

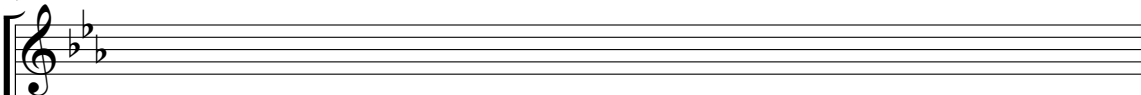
_____ young nest - lings find their song A - top

'Mid the

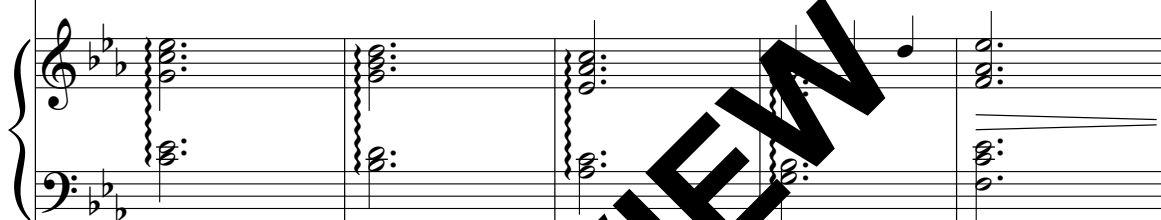
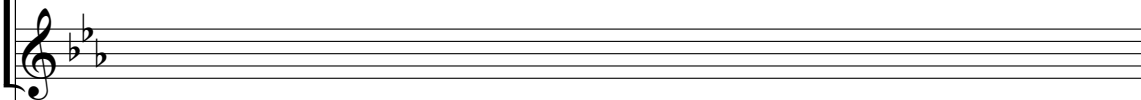
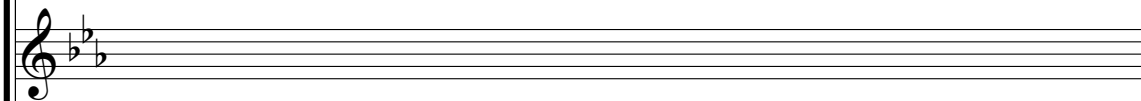
A - top an - chor - ing roots,

an - chor - ing roots 'Mid the

91

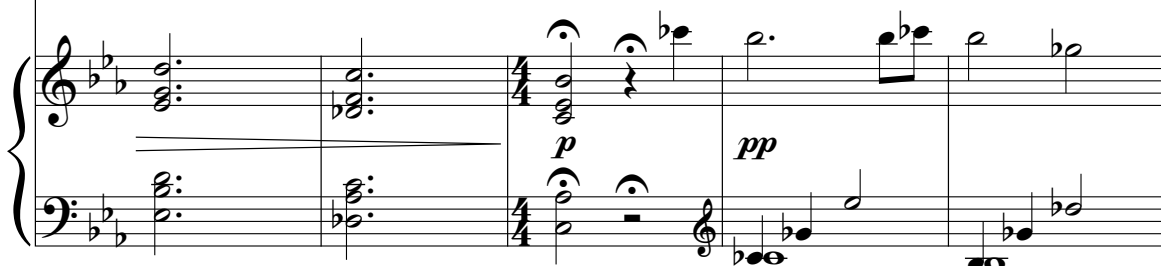
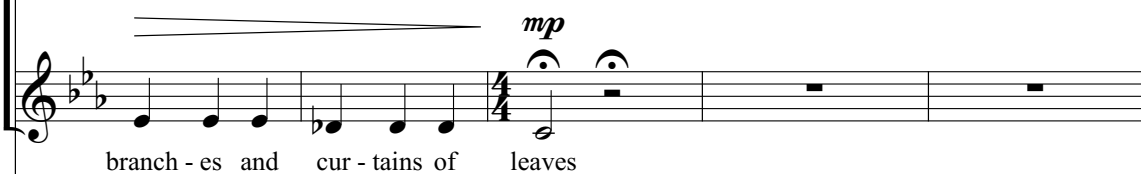
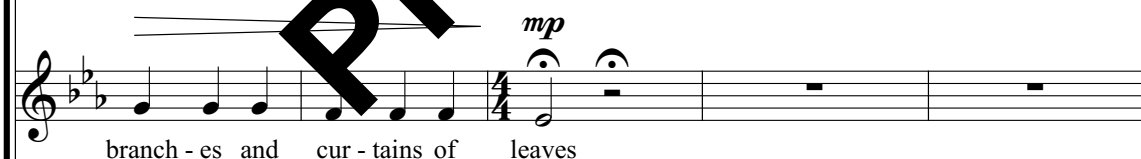


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96

F With tenderness ♩ = 90



101

p **rall.**

long the tree is the place they be -

the tree is the place they be -

the tree is the place they be -

PREVIEW

With quiet, building courage = 102

105 *mp* (*mp*) **G**

long And the birds will fly, _____

mp (*mp*)

long And the birds will fly, _____

mp (*mp*)

long And the birds will fly, _____

PREVIEW

108

And the birds will fly,

And the birds will fly,

And the birds will fly,

sfz

111

mf

fly,

mf

fly,

mf

fly,

with building intensity

mp

113

fly, fly, fly,

This block contains the musical notation for measures 113 and 114. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have long, sweeping melodic lines with the lyrics "fly,". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar pattern in the left hand.

H With soaring momentum

115

fly! fly! fly!

fp *f* *f* *f*

The song - bird From roots un - to wings the song - bird

This block contains the musical notation for measures 115, 116, and 117. The vocal parts have more dynamic and varied melodic lines. The piano accompaniment features triplets and a change in dynamics from *f* to *mf*. The lyrics are "fly! fly! fly!" and "The song - bird From roots un - to wings the song - bird".

118

sings! Beck - on - ing call, a call to

sings a beck - on - ing call, beck - on - ing call,

f Beck - on - ing call,

121

ff dream!

ff dream!

ff dream! From roots un - to -

f

1852-15

Leo.

128 *rit.* With reflection, as the beginning

dream! dream! dream!

let ring *p*

(*Rec.*)

134 (Sop.) *p*

S e - cause of a dream plant-ed long a - go,

141 Unison voices

ev - 'ry bird can grow and sing

Rec.

145

To what - ev - er the height or how

(Ped.)

149

far they will go ev - er - so far in

K Slowing

dim

153

faith of their wings

out of time

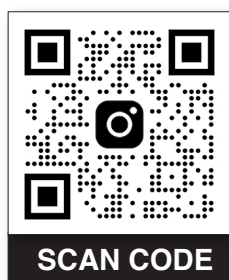
pp

Roots & Wings

by Adam Vest

It starts with a seed whose roots grow deep
That's watered and nurtured to thrive
It starts with an idea, incomplete,
That blossoms to a wellspring of life
When the roots grow deep, and the canopy high
The birds shall find their keep
They'll build their nest in the branches above
For their young to drift to sleep
In the embrace of the trees, the birds will grow
They'll learn to love and sing
And when it comes time for them to go
They'll jump in faith of their wings
From the roots to its wings, the songbird sings
And the birds fly high!
Oh, the birds will fly.
They'll sing to all the world.
Because of the seed planted long ago
The birds will spread their wings
Because of the love given to all she knows
They'll fly on the wings of dreams

*Dedicated to Mrs. Robyn Lana,
who inspired all of us to become more than we ever dreamed.*



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