

BE THE SEED, Szymko
SBMP1872

SSAA
piano



BE THE SEED

POEM BY
KIM STAFFORD

MUSIC BY
JOAN SZYMKO



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com

About the composer

Joan Szymko (b.1957) is widely regarded as an outstanding American choral composer. Her works consistently display a discerning, stirring marriage of words and music and are sung regularly at choral festivals and competitions across North America and abroad. The American Choral Director's Association recognized Szymko's lasting impact on the choral arts in North America by selecting her as a recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission (2010) and her music has been presented on stage or in sessions at every ACDA National conference since 2003.



A dynamic conductor, Joan Szymko has led choirs in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years. As a visiting artist, Joan workshops her compositions with choirs in academic and festival setting in the US and abroad. As a resident composer and performer with Portland's Do Jump! Movement Theater, she created underscoring for major touring productions, earning praise from the New York Times for her "ethereal vocal music."

Joan Szymko's catalog of over 150 choral works can be explored at joanszymko.com

Be the Seed

by Kim Stafford

Be the seed with feather crown,
be the bead bristling with legacy for life.
Lift your gift, go seeking, sifting down
into this seam in concrete wet, forsaken,
yearning for a root thread you send fingering,
lingering, loving ever deeper into
dense dark.

Be the seed.
Be the shred of living.
Be the shred of living light
bedded in the broken world.

Be not afraid,
no matter how small
your poor power
against the powers that be—
no worry, no fear.

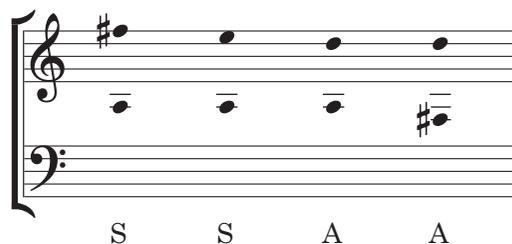
Be the seed where you are
for the long game, the strong change
by the many and the small.

All of us in our circle wider than division,
flowing, growing, greening, reaching,
waking, winding, rooting,
singing, bringing
with feathered crown the seed.

Duration

3'36"

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

Be the Seed

Kim Stafford

Joan Szymko

♩ = 52

mp

S
A

Be the seed with feath - er

mp *mf* *p*

Piano

Red.

4

crown, *mp* *f* *f*

be the bead *f* *f* bris - tling, bris - tling with

be the bead *f* *f* bris - tling, bris - tling

7

leg - a - cy for life. Lift your gift, *f* *mf*

Lift your gift, *mf* go

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10 *mf* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

sift - ing down in - to this seam of con - crete

seek - ing sift - ing down in - to this seam in con - crete

Leg.

12 *rit.*

wet, for - sak - en,

wet, for - sak - en,

Leg.

15 *a tempo mp* *rall.* *p* $\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 130$

year - ing for a root thread you send fin - ger - ing,

year - ing for a root thread year -

mp *p* Alto 1

18 **rit.** *mp* **Tempo primo** *mf*

S1 lin - ger - ing lov - ing ev - er deep - er,

S2 lin - ger - ing lov - ing deep - er

A1 - - ing lov - ing deep - er

A2 yearn - ing lov - ing deep - er

mp

21 **rit.** *mf* **accl.** *p*

lov - ing ev - er deep in - to dense dark.

lov - ing ev - er deep - er in - to dense dark.

lov - ing deep - er dense dark.

lov - ing deep - er dense dark.

Tempo primo

25 *p*

p

Be the seed. Be the shred of liv - ing. —

Be the seed. Be the shred of liv - ing. —

p

p

Ped. simile, ad lib unless notated

29

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32

Be the seed. Be the shred of
 Be the shred of liv - ing. Be the seed. Be the shred of
 Be the seed. Be the shred of
 Be the shred of liv - ing. of

34

liv - ing light__ bed - ded in the bro - ken world.__
 liv - ing light__ bed - ded in the bro - ken world.__
 liv - ing light__ bed - ded in the bro - ken world.__
 liv - ing light__ bed - ded in the bro - ken world.__

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

37 *p* *mp*

S1 Be not a - fraid, Be not a - fraid, no mat - ter how

S2 Be not a - fraid, Be not a - fraid, no mat - ter how

A Be not a - fraid, Be not a - fraid, no mat - ter how

p *mp*

p

Red.

40 *mf*

small your poor pow - er a - gainst the pow - ers that be-

mf

small your poor pow - er a - gainst the pow - ers that be-

mf

small your poor pow - er a - gainst the pow - ers that be-

mf *mp*

Red.

Tempo primo

43 *mp* no wor - ry, — no fear. *mf*

mp no wor - ry, — no fear. *mf*

mp no wor - ry, — no fear. *mf*

p *mf*

(*And.*) *mf*

47

S Be the seed where you are for the long game, the strong change_

A Be the seed where you are for the long game, the strong change_

50 *f* Be the seed where you are for the

f Be the seed where you are for the

53 *rit.* *mf*

long game, strong change by the man - y and the small.

mf

long game, strong change by the man - y and the small.

mp

56 *Meno mosso, ad libitum* ♩ = 60 *p*

Be the seed. Be the shred of liv - ing. Be the shred of liv - ing light. _____

p

Be the seed. Be the shred of liv - ing. Be the shred of liv - ing light. _____

p

60 *Poco più mosso* *mp* *mf*

All of us, All of us in our cir - cle wid - er than di - vi - sion, wid - er

mp *mf*

All of us, All of us in our cir - cle wid - er than di - vi - sion, wid - er

p *mp* *mf*

64

S1
wid - er _____ flow - ing,

S2
wid - er _____ All of us, all of us in our cir - cle, flow - ing,

A
wid - er _____ All of us, all of us in our cir - cle, flow - ing,

68

grow - ing, green - ing, reach - ing, _____ wak - ing, wind - ing,

grow - ing, green - ing, reach - ing, _____ wind - ing,

grow - ing, green - ing, reach - ing, _____



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7 85147 87756 1

71

ff *f*

root - ing sing - ing, bring - ing with feath - ered crown

ff *f*

root - ing sing - ing, feath - ered

ff *f*

root - ing sing - ing, bring - ing with

74

the seed.

crown the seed.

feath - ered crown the seed.