

Bluestem

Words and Music by
Joseph Piontek



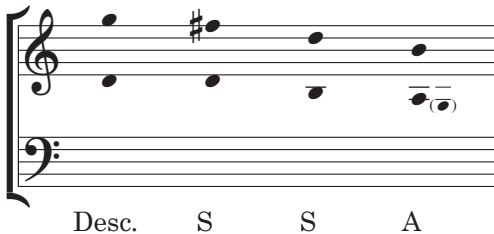


About the composer

Joseph Piontek is a composer and pianist currently residing in Kansas. He has works published through Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and in addition to commissions by choirs such as the Free State High School Chamber Singers, he was selected by the Kansas Music Teachers Association as the commissioned composer for their 2024 conference. Joseph's music has been performed by the Kansas City Women's Chorus, by featured ensembles at the Kansas Music Educators Association in-service workshop, and by various ensembles and soloists at local concerts and festivals.

Mr. Piontek holds a MM degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Central Missouri. Highlights of his performing career include prizes in the Colorado MTNA Young Artist Competition (winner) and the Boulder International Chamber Music Competition (semi-finalist), and collaborations with musicians of the Colorado Ballet Orchestra and the Boulder Philharmonic. In addition to his work as a composer, he is the choral accompanist at Free State High School in Lawrence, KS, and the organist for First Baptist Church of Topeka, KS.

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

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Lively ♩ = c. 112

Piano *mf*

1st Sopranos *mf*

Where

A

7

green a - dorns the roll - ing hills far as the eye can see, there's

mp

9

S1 room to lay down all your wor - ries, and space to let your soul run *mf*

S2

Where

The musical score is written for piano and two soprano voices. The piano part consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Lively' with a quarter note equal to approximately 112 beats per minute. The piano part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The vocal parts enter at measure 4. The first soprano (S1) has a melodic line with lyrics, while the second soprano (S2) provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: 'Where green a - dorns the roll - ing hills far as the eye can see, there's room to lay down all your wor - ries, and space to let your soul run Where'. The piano part continues with a steady accompaniment. A section marker 'A' is placed at measure 7. The score ends at measure 10.

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11

free.

gold - en rays streak through the skies and set the fields a - light, like

13

S1 *p* When

S2 flow'rs you'll turn to - ward the sun, and gath - er strength to last the night.

A *p* When

[B]

15

shad - ows grow, and winds

p Shad - ows grow, and winds

shad - ows grow, and winds

18 *cresc.*

blow, just lift your eyes up

blow, just lift your eyes up

blow, just lift your eyes up



20

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.



23 *f*

Run! Run, _____ through the blue - stem grass. Sun - light

f

Run! Run, _____ through the blue - stem grass. Oh _____

f

Run! Run, _____ through the blue - stem grass. Oh _____

25

on your face _____ 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

_____ feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

_____ feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

28

heart be free. Race through fields of green 'til you're

heart be free. Oh like gold - en beams 'til you're

heart be free. Oh like gold - en beams 'til you're

30

where you're meant to be. The

where you're meant to be.

where you're meant to be. The

33

riv - er runs, the riv - er bends, its cur - rents crash and play. Be
 riv - er runs, the riv - er bends, its cur - rents crash and play (and crash and

35

like the wa - ter cold and clear, and flow un - til you find your
 play). wa - ter cold and clear, and flow un - til you find your
 The

37 *mp*

way. Oh

pale, blue sky that hangs a - bove the riv - ers down be - low, holds

way.

39 *p*

When

clouds, and light, and sing - ing birds whose songs wake you to dawn's warm glow.

p

When

E

41

shad - ows grow, and winds

p

Shad - ows grow, and winds

shad - ows grow, and winds

44

blow, just lift your eyes up

cresc.

blow, just lift your eyes up

cresc.

blow, just lift your eyes up

46

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.

to the skies, and the stars will lead you home.

The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand, and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

F

49

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The section contains three empty staves for voices and piano accompaniment, each with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#).

51

on your face _____ 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

_____ feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

_____ feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass. Run! Run, _____ let your

54

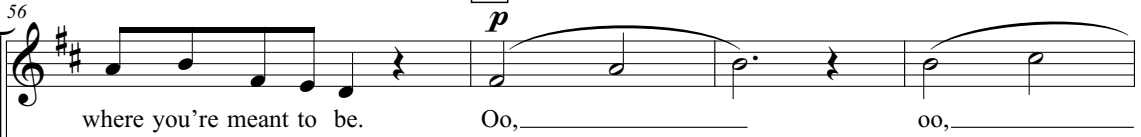
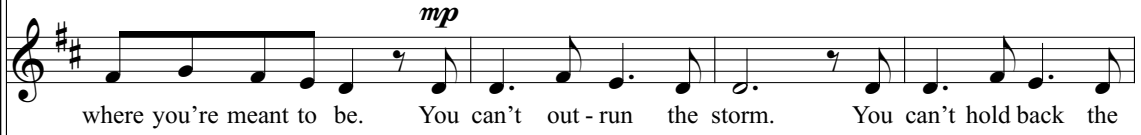
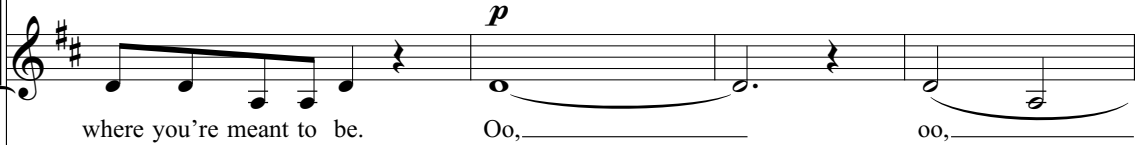
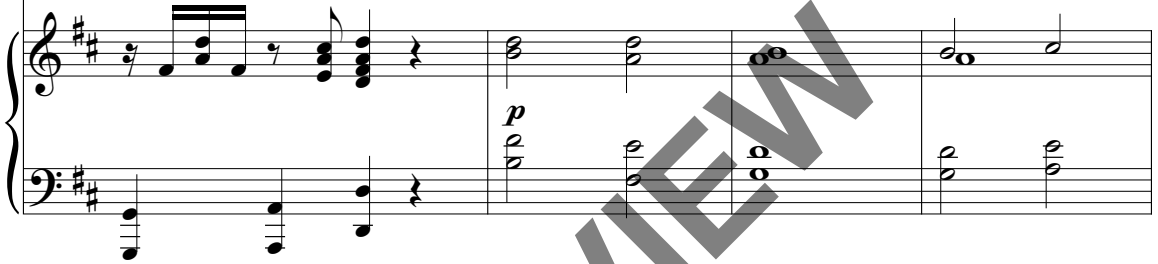
heart be free. Race through fields of green _____ 'til you're

heart be free. Oh _____ like gold - en beams 'til you're

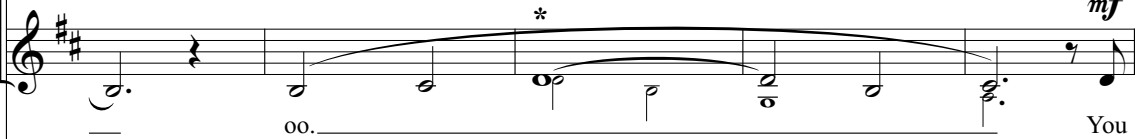
heart be free. Oh _____ like gold - en beams 'til you're

ritenuto

G Pensive ♩ = c. 100

p*mp**p**p*

*

mf

*Optional Alto divisi if desired

65 *mp*

Oo, Oo, Oo.

Oo, Oo, Oo.

will out - last the rains. You'll see the sun shine bright. In gold - en fields the

mp

70 *mp cresc.* **H** Lively, building ♩ = c. 112

You'll find your way back

dark will yield to morn - ing's light. The

mp cresc.

cresc.

74

Optional Descant *mp cresc.*

S1 home. The

S2 *mp cresc.* You'll find your way back

A stars will lead you home.

76

stars will lead you home.

stars will lead you home.

home. The

mf You'll find your way back

mf

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78

mf

The stars will lead you home.

stars will lead you home.

home. You'll find your way back home.

I

81

f

Run through the blue - stem grass,

Run! Run, through the blue - stem grass. Sun - light

f

Run! Run, through the blue - stem grass. Oh

f

Run! Run, through the blue - stem grass. Oh

83

un - til the light has passed._____

on your face_____ 'til the day has come to pass.

feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass.

feel its warm em - brace 'til the day has come to pass.

85

Run and let your heart be free,

Run! Run,_____ let your heart be free. Race through

Run! Run,_____ let your heart be free. Oh_____

Run! Run,_____ let your heart be free. Oh_____

87

mf J

un - til you're where you're meant to be. Oo.

mf

fields of green 'til you're where you're meant to be. Oo.

mf

like gold - en beams 'til you're where you're meant to be. Oo.

mf

like gold - en beams 'til you're where you're meant to be. Oo.

mf

90

rit.

mp

p

p

mp

p

p

p

p

Bluestem

by Joseph Piontek

Where green adorns the rolling hills
far as the eye can see,
there's room to lay down all your worries,
and space to let your soul run free.

Where golden rays streak through the skies
and set the fields alight,
like flowers you'll turn toward the sun,
and gather strength to last the night.

When shadows grow, and winds blow,
just lift you eyes up to the skies,
and the stars will lead you home.

Run! Run through the bluestem grass.
Sunlight on your face,
feel its warm embrace
'til the day has come to pass.

Run! Run, let your heart be free.
Race through fields of green
like golden beams
'til you're where you're meant to be.

The river runs, the river bends,
its currents crash and play.
Be like the water cold and clear,
and flow until you find your way.

The pale, blue sky that hangs above
the rivers down below
holds clouds, and light, and singing birds
whose songs wake you to dawn's warm glow.

When shadows grow, and winds blow,
just lift you eyes up to the skies,
and the stars will lead you home.

Run! Run through the bluestem grass.
Sunlight on your face,
feel its warm embrace
'til the day has come to pass.

Run! Run, let your heart be free.
Race through fields of green
like golden beams
'til you're where you're meant to be.

You can't outrun the storm.
You can't hold back the night.
When blackened skies let lightning fly
be brave and hold hope tight.

You will outlast the rains.
You'll see the sun shine bright.
In golden fields the dark will yield
to morning's light.

Run! Run through the bluestem grass.
Sunlight on your face,
feel its warm embrace
'til the day has come to pass.

Run! Run, let your heart be free.
Race through fields of green
like golden beams
'til you're where you're meant to be.



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