

# Dawn

SSSAAA a cappella

laura hawley

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# Dawn

Text: from “Dawn” by Marjorie Pickthall

O KEEP the world forever at the dawn,  
Ere yet the opals, cobweb-strung, have dried,  
O, keep the eastern gold no wider than  
An angel's finger-span,  
And hush the increasing thunder of the sea  
To murmuring melody  
In those fair coves where tempests ne'er should be.

Keep all things hushed, so hushed we seem to hear  
The sounds of low-swung clouds that sweep the trees;  
Let now no harsher music reach the ear,  
No earthlier sounds than these,  
When whispering shadows move within the grass,  
And airy tremors pass  
Through all the earth with life awakening thrilled,  
And so forever stilled,  
Too sweet in promise e'er to be fulfilled.

O keep the world forever at the dawn,  
Yet, keeping so, let nothing lifeless seem,  
Some shadowy moth may pass with downy flight  
And fade before the sight,  
While in the unlightened darkness of the wall  
The chirping crickets call;  
From forest pools where fragrant lilies are  
A breath shall pass afar,  
And o'er the crested pine shall hang one star.

Commissioned by Hypatia's Voice for their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with generous support from the City of Ottawa. Christopher Ducasse – Artistic Director.

**Duration: 4:00**

## Composer's Note

This beautiful poem by Marjorie Pickthall really spoke to me in the way it held a still moment in time for the entire five stanzas poem, capturing that sacred magical feeling of a quiet Dawn. It reminded me of standing on the beach at Lake Huron, where I grew up, early in the morning when the lake is quiet and still, before the waves start to move as the day unfolds.

In my setting, I've tried to capture this sense of stillness, and although the piece develops toward the middle, it returns to the same sense of stillness at the end, holding the dawn the same way it started. Singers should strive to create long phrases that have an internal shape without going overboard and disrupting the sense of quiet stillness.

There are a couple of places where I've given the alto 3 line a louder dynamic – this is for balance purposes. Please feel free to adjust as needed. I also suggest a flexible approach to the tempo in sections A and B – these sections can ebb and flow and need not stay strictly at the indicated metronome marking.

Writing this piece for Hypatia's Voice was a special project for me as this is a choir that I founded in 2015 in Ottawa and conducted until 2019, having moved to Edmonton in 2018. It's wonderful to see the choir still going strong and celebrating 10 years!

# Dawn

Marjorie Pickthall

laura hawley

gently  $\text{♩} = 52$

*mp*

Soprano 1 Oh keep the world for -

*mp*

Soprano 2 Oh keep the world for -

*p*

Soprano 3 Keep the world, keep the world, keep the

*p*

Alto 1 Keep the world, keep the world keep the world

*p*

Alto 2 Keep the world,

*mp*

Alto 3 Oh keep the world for -

Piano (for rehearsal only)

6

S 1 ev - er at the dawn, ere yet the op - als, cob - web - strung, have

S 2 ev - er at the dawn, ere yet the op - als, cob - web - strung, have

S 3 world, keep the world, keep the world,

A 1 keep the world keep the world keep

A 2 keep the world keep the world keep

A 3 ev - er at the dawn, ere yet the op - als, cob - web - strung, have

11

S 1 dried, O, keep the east - ern gold no wid - er than an ang - el's

S 2 dried, O, keep the east - ern gold no wid - er than an ang - el's

S 3 keep the world, keep the world, keep the

A 1 the world keep the world keep the world

A 2 the world keep the world keep the world

A 3 dried, O, keep the east - ern gold no wid - er than an ang - el's

16

S 1 fin - ger - span, and hush the in - creas - ing thun - der of the sea

S 2 fin - ger - span, and hush the in - creas - ing thun - der of the sea

S 3 world, keep the world, keep the

A 1 keep the world keep the world

A 2 keep the world keep the world

A 3 fin - ger - span, and hush the in - creas - ing thun - der of the sea

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Conductors wishing for a full perusal  
score, please contact the composer at  
[laurahawleymusic@gmail.com](mailto:laurahawleymusic@gmail.com).

30 *cresc. poco a poco*

S 1 hushed we seem to hear the sounds of low - swung clouds that sweep the

S 2 hushed we seem to hear the sounds, the sounds of low, of low - swung clouds that sweep the

S 3 hushed we seem to hear the sounds of low - swung clouds that sweep the

A 1 the sounds of low - swung clouds that

A 2 hushed we seem to hear the sounds of low - swung clouds that sweep the

A 3 hushed we seem to hear the sounds of low - swung clouds that sweep the

7 3

35 *mf*

S 1 trees; Let now no harsh - er mus - sic reach the ear,

S 2 trees; Let now no harsh - er mus - sic reach the ear,

S 3 trees; Let now, now,

A 1 sweep the trees; Let now, let now, let now,

A 2 trees, the trees; Let now

A 3 trees; Let now no

7

40

S 1 no earth-li - er sounds than these, when whis - p'ring shad - ows move with - in the grass,

S 2 no earth-li - er sounds than these, when whis - p'ring shad - ows move with - in the grass,

S 3 no earth-li - er sounds than these, — whis - p'ring shad - ows move with - in the grass,

A 1 no sounds — shad-ows, shad-ows in the grass,

A 2 no earth-li - er sounds sound when whis - p'ring with - in the

A 3 earth-li - er sounds — when whis - p'ring shadows move with - in the

45

S 1 *mp* and air - y trem - ors pass, —

S 2 *mp* and air - y —

S 3 *mp* and air - y trem - ors pass, —

A 1 *mp* and air - y —

A 2 *mp* grass and air - y trem - ors pass, —

A 3 *mf* grass and air - y trem - ors pass, —

50 *p* *molto cresc.*

S 1 trem - ors pass through all, all,

S 2 trem - ors pass through all, through all

S 3 pass, through all, all

A 1 trem - ors pass through all the earth, through

A 2 pass through all, all,

A 3 pass through all, all

55 *ff*

S 1 all earth with life aw -

S 2 all earth with life aw -

S 3 all the earth with life aw -

A 1 all the earth with life aw -

A 2 all the earth with life aw -

A 3 all the earth with life aw -

60

S 1 ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_

S 2 ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_

S 3 ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 *mp* ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_ and so \_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er

A 2 *mp* ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_ and so

A 3 ak - 'ning thrilled, \_\_\_\_\_

65

S 1 *mp* too sweet in prom - ise e'er to

S 2 *mp* too sweet in prom - ise

S 3 *mp* too sweet to ful - fill. \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 stilled,

A 2 stilled,

A 3 *mp* too sweet in prom - ise e'er to

70 C *mp*

S 1 be ful - filled. *mp* Oh *mp*

S 2 *mp* Oh

S 3 *mp* Keep the world, keep the world,

A 1 *mp* Keep the world, keep the world *mp* keep

A 2 *mp* Keep

A 3 *mf* be ful - filled. Oh

75

S 1 keep the world for - ev - er at the dawn, yet, keep - ing so, let

S 2 keep the world for - ev - er at the dawn, yet, keep - ing so, let

S 3 keep the world, keep the world, keep the

A 1 the world keep the world keep the world

A 2 the world, keep the world keep the world

A 3 keep the world for - ev - er at the dawn, yet, keep - ing so, let

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89

S 1 of the wall the chirp - ing crick-ets call from for - est

S 2 of the wall the chirp - ing crick-ets call from for - est

S 3 keep the world, keep the world,

A 1 — the world — keep — the world — keep —

A 2 — the world — keep — the world — keep —

A 3 of the wall the chirp - ing crick-ets call from for - est

93

S 1 pools where frag - ant lil - ies are a breath shall pass a -

S 2 pools where frag - ant lil - ies are a breath shall pass a -

S 3 keep the world, keep the world,

A 1 — the world — keep — the world — keep —

A 2 — the world — keep — the world — keep —

A 3 pools where frag - ant lil - ies are a breath shall pass a -

97

S 1 far, and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_ shall

S 2 far and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_ shall

S 3 and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_ shall

A 1 — the world and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_ shall

A 2 — the world and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_

A 3 far, and o'er the cres - ted pine \_\_\_\_\_

101

S 1 hang one star. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

S 2 hang one one star. *p*

S 3 hang one one star. *p*

A 1 hang one one star. *p*

A 2 hang one one star. *p*

A 3 hang one star. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

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Be music, night SSAATBB a cappella	Maid on the Shore SSAA a cappella	Stones SSA with piano
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