

I Write this Poem out of Darkness

George Ella Lyon

SSA vocal trio, flute, violin and piano



Elizabeth Alexander

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Growing Light

I write this poem
out of darkness
to you
who are also in darkness
because our lives demand it.

This poem is a hand on your shoulder
a bone touch to go with you
through the hard birth of vision.
In other words, love
shapes this poem

is the fist that holds the chisel,
muscle that drags marble
and burns with the weight
of believing a face
lives in the stone
a breathing word in the body.

I tell you
though the darkness
has been ours
words will give us
give our eyes, opened in promise
a growing light.

George Ella Lyon

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George Ella Lyon grew up in the mountains of Kentucky, the daughter of a dry cleaner and a community worker. She has written over 30 books for children and adults in the forms of poetry, memoir and novel, as well as two plays. She maintains an active schedule leading writing workshops and giving talks at schools, arts programs, conferences and community events all over the country, making dozens of appearances every year. The mother of two sons, she makes her home in Lexington, Kentucky.

For more information, visit: georgeellalyon.com

Elizabeth Alexander spent her childhood in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio. Her passion for language, and in particular for modern American poems, is reflected in her catalogue of over 60 choral works, with performances by over 1000 choirs. Reviews of her vocal music have commented on “the close personal resonance between the composer and the words,” her music’s “delicacy and sincerity,” and its “elegance, subtle, unexpected harmonic turns, and...freshness within a well-known language.” Her many commissions include works for orchestras, chamber ensembles and choruses. Also the mother of two sons, Alexander lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more information, visit: www.elizabethalexander.com

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for Ann Silsbee

I Write This Poem Out Of Darkness

George Ella Lyon

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 36 - 40)

Flute

Violin

Voice I

Voice II

Voice III

Piano

(dark - ness... out of dark - ness... I write this po - em...)

sul G

p

p

Ped.

6

Violin

Piano

Ped.

Ped.

10

Violin

Piano

Ped.

Ped.

13 *with increasing tension* **molto rit.**

Violin *mf* *port.* *port.*

Piano *mf* **molto rit.**

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

16 **a tempo** *suddenly tender and expansive* *espressivo*

Violin *f* *port.*

Piano **a tempo**

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

19 *with increasing intensity*

Violin *mf* *f*

Piano *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

22

Violin *ff*

strong, solitary
f

I write this po - em out of dark - ness,

bell-like
mp

Piano

26

III *warmly, tenderly*
p

I write this po - em out of dark - ness,

p *pp*

Piano

29

II *expansively, generously*
mf

I write this po - em out of dark - ness to

mf

Piano

33 **Con moto** *mf*

I
you__ who are al - so in dark - ness, - you__ who are

II
you__ who are al - so in dark - ness, - you__ who are al - so in

III
you__ who are al - so in dark - ness, -

Con moto *mf*

Piano

mf

Ped.



38

I
al - so in dark - ness, - who__ are in dark - ness,

II
dark - ness, - you__ who are al - so in dark - ness, -

III
you__ who are al - so in dark - ness, - dark - ness,

Piano

mf

Ped.

42

I

II

III

mf

mf

I write this po - em out of

I write this po - em out of dark - ness, out of

Piano

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

I

II

III

mf

I write this po - em out of dark - ness, I write to

dark - ness, out of dark - ness, I write to

dark - ness, I write this po - em out of dark - ness to

Piano

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

50 *f* with forward motion

I
you, who are al - so in dark - ness,

II
you who are al - so in dark - ness,

III
you, who are al - so in dark - ness,

Piano
f with forward motion

Ped. sempre

53

Flute

Violin

I
You who are al - so, are al - so in dark - ness

II
You who are al - so, are al - so in dark - ness

III
You who are al - so, are al - so in dark - ness

Piano

f *mf* *p subito*

57 **suddenly still**

Flute

Violin

I *p subito*
be-cause our lives, our lives de - mand it.

II *p subito*
be-cause our lives, our lives de - mand it.

III *p subito*
be-cause our lives, our lives de - mand it.

Piano **suddenly still**
p
Ped.

62

Flute

Violin

Piano

(♩ = 54) (♩ = ♩.) **

66 *mp*

Flute

Piano

mp

Ped.



70 *mp*

II

III

Piano

mp

Ped.

Ped.

This po - em is a hand on your shoul - der.

This po - em is a hand on your shoul - der.



74 *mp*

Flute

Piano

mp

Ped.

Ped.

** The pace of the quarter notes in m. 66 should be exactly the same as the pace of the previous measure's triplets.

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87

Flute

I

II

III

Piano

mp

In oth - er words, in oth - er words, in

mp

In oth - er words, in oth - er

mp

In oth - er words, —

pp

una corda

Ped.

90

Flute

I

II

III

Piano

oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in

words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er

— in oth - er words, — in oth - er words, — in oth - er words, — in oth - er words, —

Ped.

rall.

94

Flute

I
oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words,

II
words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words,

III
in oth - er words, in oth - er words, in oth - er words,

Piano

Ped. *tre corde*

rall.

97

Flute

a tempo

I
f Love shapes this po - em, is the fist that holds the chi - sel, is the

II
f Love shapes this po - em, is the fist that holds the chi - sel, the chi - sel, the

III
f Love shapes this po - em, is the fist that holds the chi - sel, the chi - sel, the

a tempo

Piano

mf

Ped. *Ped.*

101

I
mus - cle that drags, _____ drags, _____ drags, _____ mar - ble,

II
mus - cle that drags _____ drags, _____ drags, _____ mar - ble, and

III
mus - cle that drags, _____ drags, _____ drags, _____ mar - ble,

Piano

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.



meno mosso

warmly, with a slight folk music inflection

104

II
burns with the weight of be - liev - ing a face lives in the stone, _____ in _____ the

Piano

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped.

108 **A tempo**

pp

I A breath-ing word _____ in the

II stone. A breath-ing word _____ in the

III A breath-ing word _____ in the

A tempo

pp

Ped. Ped.

113 $(\text{♩} = 36) (\text{♩} = \text{♩}) **$

Violin *p*

I bo- dy. _____

II bo- dy. _____

III bo- dy. _____

$(\text{♩} = 36) (\text{♩} = \text{♩}) **$

p

Ped. Ped. 3

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132

Flute

I

II

III

Piano

mp

mf

o - pened in pro - mise,

o - pened in pro - mise,

Ped. Ped.

136

Flute

I

II

Piano

mf

mf

o - pened in pro - mise, a grow - ing light.

a grow - ing

Ped. Ped.

(I write this po - em, out of dark - ness)

139

Flute

I

II

III

Piano

mf

mf

mf

light.

a grow ing light.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.



143

Flute

Violin

Piano

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

147

Flute

(mf) *mp*

Violin

dolce *mp*

Piano

(mf) *mp*

Red. sempre

151

Flute

p

Violin

p

Piano

p

154

Flute

Violin

ppp

(out of dark - ness...)

A high pinpoint of light, small but intense --

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