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A Little Magic: Three Songs for Boys

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MICHAEL MAULDIN

A LITTLE MAGIC: THREE SONGS FOR BOYS (SSA)

- I. Prayer**
- II. Pilgrimage**
- III. Stones**

A LITTLE MAGIC: THREE SONGS FOR BOYS (SSA)

This piece was written for an outstanding new boychoir in Oakland, California, the Pacific Boychoir, founded and directed by Kevin Fox. The words were written by Peggy Pond Church, who was best-known for her book *THE HOUSE AT OTOWI BRIDGE*, excerpts from which I used as the narration for my orchestral suite, "Enchanted Land." Peggy grew up on the beautiful mesas around what is now Los Alamos, New Mexico before her father's boys' school was chosen by the government as the site for atomic weapon research.

Review: *"Each song is about a minute long, but there's a lot more than one minute's musical value in each one. There is a beautiful flow to the music & an enchanted beauty to it."* –Andrew Marr, "Voices of Angels"

Excerpts may be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/michael-mauldin/sets/a-little-magic-three-songs-for>. Complete tracks may be purchased at <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/mauldin3>.

Movements:

- I. Prayer (1:08)
- II. Pilgrimage (1:16)
- III. Stones (1:02)

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<http://www.mmauldin.com>

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A LITTLE MAGIC: THREE SONGS FOR BOYS

for S.S.A. voices, accompanied*

I. Prayer

Text: PEGGY POND CHURCH
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MICHAEL MAULDIN
2004

1 $\text{♩} = 72$ *mp*

SOPRANO I
Let me live keen-ly as a lark high-

SOPRANO II
Let me live keen-ly as a lark high-

ALTO
Let me live keen-ly as a lark high-

ACCOMP. *p*

3 *mf* *mp*

SOP. I
soar - ing In one swift arc of song a - cross the

SOP. II
soar - ing In one swift arc of song a - cross the

ALTO
soar - ing In one swift arc of song a - cross the

ACCOMP. *mp* *p*

*String Orchestra also available

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5

SOP. I *mf* *mp* 3
 sky; How-ev - er brief let my flight be un -

SOP. II *mf* *mp* 3
 sky; How-ev - er brief let my flight be un -

ALTO *mf* *mp* 3
 sky; How-ev - er brief let my flight be un -

mp *p* 3 3

7

SOP. I *mf* *f* *mf*
 swerv - ing And straight and high. Let me in -

SOP. II *mf* *f* *mf*
 swerv - ing And straight and high. Let me in -

ALTO *mf* *f* *mf*
 swerv - ing And straight and high. Let me in -

mp *mf* *mp* 3

10

SOP. I
crease as riv - ers do and gath - er Wis - dom from

SOP. II
crease as riv - ers do and gath - er Wis - dom from

ALTO
crease as riv - ers do and gath - er Wis - dom from

10

12

SOP. I
hills and ev - 'ry root - ed tree; Then let me

SOP. II
hills and ev - 'ry root - ed tree; Then let me

ALTO
hills and ev - 'ry root - ed tree; Then let me

12

14

SOP. I
go at last like qui - et wa - ter To -

SOP. II
go at last like qui - et wa - ter To -

ALTO
go at last like qui - et wa - ter To -

16

SOP. I
ward the sea. *f* *rit.* *mf* *mp*

SOP. II
ward the sea. *f* *rit.* *mf* *mp*

ALTO
ward the sea. *f* *rit.* *mf* *mp*

II. Pilgrimage

1 $\text{♩} = 65$

SOP. I *mp*

SOP. II

ALTO

1 $\text{♩} = 65$

pp

2

4

SOP. I *p* *mp*

black stone: _____ The

SOP. II *mp* *p*

The black stone: _____

ALTO *mp* *p*

The black stone: _____

4

7

SOP. I
black stone: I

SOP. II
The black stone:

ALTO
The black stone:

7

9

SOP. I
car - ried it all the way all the way up, —

SOP. II
I car - ried it all the way all the way

ALTO
I car - ried it all the way

9

10 *mp* *f*

SOP. I car-ried it all the way all the way up— the moun-tain, ——— the

SOP. II *mp* *f*
I car-ried it all the way up— the moun-tain, ——— the

ALTO *mp* *f*
I car-ried it up— the moun-tain, ——— the

10 *p* *mf*

12 *mf* *mf* *mf*

SOP. I moun-tain. ——— When I came down, ———

SOP. II moun-tain. ——— When I came down, ———

ALTO moun-tain. ——— When I came

12 *mp* *mp*

14 *mp* *slower* (♩. = 60) *p*

SOP. I
a piece of the moon— was shin-ing in my pock-et.—

SOP. II
moon— was shin-ing in my pock-et.—

ALTO
down, moon— was shin-ing in my pock-et.—

14 *p* *slower* (♩. = 60)

17 *slower* (♩. = 55) *pp*

SOP. I
a piece of the moon.—

SOP. II
a piece of the moon.—

ALTO
a piece of the moon.—

17 *mp* *slower* (♩. = 55)

III. Stones

1 $\text{♩} = 65$

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

mp

mf

those

those man - y shaped small smooth-pol-ished peb-bles

1 $\text{♩} = 65$

p

3

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

stones,

stones, — those

man - y shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles,

3

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a vocal ensemble and piano. It is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 65. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal parts are Soprano I, Soprano II, and Alto. The piano part consists of a right and left hand. The lyrics are: 'those man - y shaped small smooth-pol-ished peb-bles'. The first system shows the vocal entries and the piano accompaniment. The second system shows the vocal lines continuing with lyrics 'stones, stones, — those' and 'man - y shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles,'. The piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

4

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

stones, stones, — those

man - y - shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4 and 5 of a musical score. It features three vocal staves (Soprano I, Soprano II, and Alto) and a piano accompaniment. Soprano I has a whole rest in measure 4. Soprano II and Alto have vocal lines with lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are: 'stones, stones, — those' for Soprano II and 'man - y - shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles' for Alto.

5

f

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

stones

stones, stones, — those

man - y shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 and 6 of a musical score. It features three vocal staves (Soprano I, Soprano II, and Alto) and a piano accompaniment. Soprano I has a half note 'stones' with a forte dynamic marking (*f*). Soprano II and Alto have vocal lines with lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are: 'stones' for Soprano I, 'stones, stones, — those' for Soprano II, and 'man - y shaped small — smooth - pol - ished peb - bles,' for Alto.

6

SOP. I
— have been wait - ing so long, so

SOP. II
stones, stones, — those stones, so

ALTO
man - y shaped small smooth polished peb - bles stones, so

6

mp < *mf* > *mp*

8

SOP. I
long, so long —

SOP. II
long,

ALTO
long, those

8

mf > *mp*

p

10

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

long for the ear that can hear how they cry

long for the ear that can hear how they cry

long for the ear that can hear how they cry

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

11

12

SOP. I

SOP. II

ALTO

out.

out.

out.

f

f

f

f

13