

1991

Snow Daughters' Song

Alan Schmitz

Robert Wilkinson

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Snow Daughters' Song

*SSA
with
piano accompaniment*

*Text by
Robert Wilkinson*

*Music by
Alan Schmitz*

*Commissioned by the
Anchorage Children's Choir
Janet Stotts, Director
1991*

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Birches slender and tall,
so tall they scrape the curved sky,
white birches tangling the white, curved sky;
we stand among them, we raise our arms,
arms slender as birch branches, our hands
full of white sky, full of white sky.

The great mountains rise
and lean, lean toward the horizon,
they hold up the sky, they shoulder the moon,
the white mountains shoulder the moon
into the sky, and we stand beneath them
and gaze on the moon, and gaze on the moon.

Daughters of the snow, we come
to you now, dark mouths full of white wind,
white wind of the north, and we sing
toward you now out of our dark mouths
this white song, like a snow owl spreading
wings from our branches, wings from our branches.

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Moderato ♩ = 88

Pno.

p *f* *p*

etc.

6

Pno.

f *p*

12

S. *p*

Birch - es slen - der and tall, so tall they scrape the

S.

Birch - es slen - der and tall, so tall they scrape the

A.

Birch - es slen - der and tall, so tall they scrape the

Pno.

pp

The musical score is written for piano and voices. It begins with a piano introduction in 3/4 time, marked 'Moderato' with a tempo of 88 beats per minute. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand, with dynamics of piano (p), forte (f), and piano (p). The vocal part enters at measure 6 with three staves for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), and Tenor (T.) voices. They sing the lyrics 'Birch - es slen - der and tall, so tall they scrape the' in a simple, homophonic setting. The piano accompaniment continues with a melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand, with dynamics of piano (p) and pianissimo (pp). The score ends with a final piano accompaniment measure.

17

S. *f* *f* > *p* <

curved sky, tan-gling the white, white sky;

S. sky, tan-gling the white, white sky;

A. sky, white birch-es tan-gling the white, curved sky;

Pno. *p* *mf* *mp*

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

S. we stand a-mong them, we

S. we stand a-mong them, we

A. we stand a-mong them, we

Pno. *p*

27 *f* *p*

S. raise our arms, arms slen-der as birch branch-es, our hands full of white,

S. raise our arms, arms slen-der as birch branch-es, our hands full of white,

A. raise our arms, arms slen-der as birch branch-es, our hands full of white

Pno. *mf* *pp*

32 *f > p*

S. white sky.

S. white sky.

A. sky, full of white sky.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *p*

37

S. The great moun-tains rise and

S. The great moun-tains rise and

A. The great moun - tains rise and

Pno.

42

S. lean, lean to-ward the ho - ri - zon, they shoul-der the moon,

S. lean, lean to-ward the ho - ri - zon,

A. lean, lean to-ward the ho - ri - zon, they hold up the sky,

Pno.

47

S. in - to the

S. the white moun - tains in - to the

A. the white moun - tains shoul - der the moon in - to the

Pno. *pp*

52 *f > p < f* *mp*

S. sky, and we stand be -

S. sky, and we stand be -

A. sky, and we stand be - neath

Pno. *mf* *p*

57 *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

S. neath them and gaze on the moon, and gaze on the moon.

S. neath them and gaze on the moon, and gaze on the moon.

A. them and gaze on the moon, and gaze on the moon.

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp* *p*

62

Pno. *cresc.* *f* *p* *cresc.*

66

Pno. *ff* *p* *cresc.*

Rit. — A Tempo

71

S. *p*
Daugh - ters of the snow, we come to you now, dark

S.
Daugh - ters of the snow, we come to you now, dark

A.
Daugh - ters of the snow, we come to you now, dark

Pno. *mf* *pp*

76

S. *f* *> p <*
mouths full of white wind, white wind of the north, the north,

S.
mouths full of white wind, white wind of the north, the north,

A.
mouths full of white wind, white wind of the north, the north,

Pno. *mf* *mp*

81

mp

S. and we sing to - ward you out of

S. and we sing to - ward you out of

A. and we sing to - ward you out of

Pno. *(mp)* *p*

86

*mf**p*

S. our dark mouths this white song, like a snow owl spread - ing

S. our dark mouths this white song, like a snow owl spread - ing

A. our dark mouths this white song, like a snow owl spread - ing

Pno. *mp* *pp* *p*

92

S.

wings from our branch - es, wings

S.

wings from our branch - es, wings

A.

wings from our branch - es, wings

Pno.

97

S.

from our branch - es, branch - es.

S.

from our branch - es, branch - es, branch - es.

A.

from our branch - es, branch - es, branch - es.

Pno.

The Collaborators



Photo: David Jensen

left to right
Alan Schmitz, composer;
Robert Wilkinson, poet;
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