

Three Songs for CB:

After Storm

words by Carol Burdick

music by Jeffrey Ryan

for SATB choir a cappella

*commissioned by the Alfred Chamber Singers
in honour of Carol Burdick*

Performance Notes:

Total duration ca. 3:40.

Care should be taken to differentiate between the various levels of accent and articulation. Tenuto markings indicate a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress on the note.

In mm. 11-43, the sopranos should be always very legato, with a pure, almost "straight" tone, to contrast with the agitated quality of the lower voices.

While some of the cross-relations are marked with a courtesy accidental, all cross-relations are intentional.

After Storm, *Angeline on Ossabaw* and *Discards* (texts by Carol Burdick) comprise a trilogy of works with a "progressive" accompaniment (the first *a cappella*, the second with obbligato cello, and the third with string quartet). They may be performed separately or in combination; if the complete trilogy is performed, they should be presented in the order given above.

Programme note:

When I first read Carol Burdick's poem *After Storm*, I was struck by a poetic voice breaking with grief. The simplicity of the opening words masks an underlying sense of loss and pain. I imagined someone whose heart was suffering, who sought to bring peace to where there was only unrest. But the peaceful beauty of the winter snow, outside, does not find its way into this troubled soul.

This setting emphasises this contrast between the outer and inner worlds. After a gentle opening suggesting the calming of the falling snow, the sopranos continue this mood with a long melody, while the lower voices struggle to speak underneath. In the next section, the voices combine to appeal for rest, but ultimately beg to be released of all feeling. The last section suggests both a sense of defeat and resignation, and the possibility of eventual release.

After Storm was commissioned by the Alfred Chamber Singers (Luanne Crosby, director) in honour of Carol Burdick.

Carol Burdick
After Storm

Mute and purely beautiful this night;
Wind-driven snow at rest
in a tranquility of white,
carelessly crystal under light
from quiet stars.

So might peace come within my breast,
to fall as snowflakes fall
upon raw scars; to mask impurity,
stifle futile inquiry
which seeks in chaos, reason.
Grant me my white season,
make me cold.

Cool the scorching flame of why
down to merest glow;
Come Peace! upon my spirit lie
like freshly fallen snow.

From *Destination Unknown* ©1967 Carol Burdick.
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After Storm

words by Carol Burdick
music by Jeffrey Ryan

♩ = 48 Gentle and restful
pp

1

♩ = 72 sub.
(*pp*) (stagger breathe)

7

mm — mm — mm — mm —
*as if struggling to speak

(no breath) *p* (sempre dolce e legato)

13

mm — mm — mm — mm — mm — mm — mm — mm — yoo —

17

S ti - ful this night;

A *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mm yoo *mm* yoo *mm* yoo mute mute

T *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mm yoo *mm* yoo *mm* yoo mute mute

B *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mm yoo *mm* yoo *mm* yoo mute mute

21

S Wind driv - en snow

A *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mute mute mute pure pure ly

T *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mute mute mute pure pure ly

B *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp*
mute mute mute pure pure ly

25

S at - rest in a tran - qui - li - ty of white,

A *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p*
beau - ti - ful mute pure ly beau - ti - ful pure

T *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p*
beau - ti - ful mute pure ly beau - ti - ful pure

B *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p*
beau - ti - ful mute pure ly beau - ti - ful pure

29

S care - less - ly cry - stal un - der light

A ly beau - ti - ful - care - less care - less care - less care -

T ly beau - ti - ful - care - less care - less care - less care -

B ly beau - ti - ful - care - less care - less care - less care -

pp *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p*

3

34

S from qui - et stars

A less - ly qui - et qui - et qui - et

T less - ly qui - et qui - et qui - et

B less - ly qui - et qui - et qui - et

>pp *p* *>pp* *p* *>pp* *p*

39

S stars So might

A qui - et qui - et qui - et So might

T qui - et qui - et qui - et So might

B qui - et qui - et qui - et

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

poco rit. . . *n.* *n.* *n.* *p*

$\bullet = 96 \text{ sub.}$

45 *mf*

S peace come with - in my breast,

A peace come with - in my breast, to fall

T peace come with - in my breast, with - in my

B *mf*
So might - peace come with - in my -

48 *f*

S to fall as snow - flakes - snow - flakes - fall up - on

A as snow - flakes - fall as snow - flakes fall up - on

T breast, to fall as snow - flakes - fall up - on

B *f*
breast, to fall as snow - flakes - fall up - on

51 *p ten. ten. (a tempo)* *mf* *f*

S raw scars; to mask im - pur - i - ty, sti - fle fu - tile in -

A *p ten. ten.* *mf* *f*
raw scars; to mask im - pur - i - ty, sti - fle fu - tile in -

T *p ten. ten.* *mf* *f*
raw scars; to mask im - pur - i - ty, sti - fle fu - tile in - qui - ry

B *p ten. ten.* *mf* *f*
raw scars; to mask im - pur - i - ty, sti - fle fu - tile in - qui -

54 *ff* $\text{♩} = 48$

S
qui - ry which seeks in cha - os, cha - os, cha - os,

A
qui - ry which seeks in cha - os, cha - os, cha - os,

T
which seeks in cha - os, cha - os, cha - os,

B
ry which seeks — in cha - os, cha - os, cha - os,

58 *p* *pp colourless* $\text{♩} = 48$

S
rea - son. Grant me my white sea - son, make

A
rea - son. Grant me my white sea - son, make

T
rea - son. Grant me my white sea - son, make

B
rea - son. Grant me my white sea - son, make

64 $\text{♩} = 48$ *mf > p*

S
me cold. Cool the scorch-ing flame of

A
me cold. Cool the scorch-ing flame of

T
me cold. Cool the scorch-ing flame of

B
me cold. Cool the scorch-ing flame of

6

70

p \triangleright *pp*

S why down to mer - est glow; Come Peace! spir - it

A why to mer - est glow; Come Peace! spir - it

T why mer - est glow; Come Peace! up - on my spir - it

B why mer - est glow; Come Peace! spir - it

76

$\bullet = 72$ sub.

S lie like fresh - ly fal - len snow.

A lie like fresh - ly fal - len

T lie like fresh - ly fal - len

B lie like fresh - ly fal - len

p *agitato* \triangleright *pp*

Come* Peace!_

p *agitato* \triangleright *pp*

Come* Peace!_

p *agitato* \triangleright *pp*

Come* Peace!_

*close to "m" on second eighth note, from here to the end.

82

S \triangleright *n.*

A *p* \triangleright *pp* *pp* \triangleright *n.*

Come— Peace!_ Come...— Come...— Come...— (mm)

T *p* \triangleright *pp* *pp* \triangleright *n.*

Come— Peace!_ Come...— Come...— Come...— (mm)

B *p* \triangleright *pp* *pp* \triangleright *n.*

Come— Peace!_ Come...— Come...— Come...— (mm)