

Note from the Composer

Promise was written in memory of Sydney Siefert, a student at Olentangy Liberty High School in Powell, Ohio, who lost her life in a car accident at the age of 17. She was also an organ donor and her heart was transplanted to give life to a gravely ill patient. These two facts play an important part in the creation of this anthem.

Promise is a work of interplay between opposites – sadness and joy, tragedy and blessing, death and rebirth, sorrow and hope. There is a profound melancholy in the harmony that always leads to a sense of wonder and quietude. There are also exquisite opportunities for text painting – the opening “dripping” figure in the accompaniment, the women’s cascading lines in “snow caps melt slowly” and the ascent from unison to close harmony in “rise in a fine mist of dreams”. Susan Boersma’s final lyrics serve as a benediction for the entire anthem – “light of the promise that beats in a heart of love”. – Craig Courtney

Note from the Lyricist

One way to celebrate life is to look at the process of renewal in nature. Spring follows winter, day follows night and light follows darkness. It is this perspective that gave birth to the celebration of the *Promise* in Sydney Siefert’s life. The *Promise* does not lie frozen in the snow; it melts and is renewed, rising heavenward to eternity and also living on in the essence of life itself here on earth, the beating of her heart of love. – Susan Bentall Boersma

Commissioned in memory of Sydney Siefert by the
Olentangy Liberty High School Varsity Chorale; Doug O'Neal, Director

Promise

For SATB Choir and Piano

Susan Bentall Boersma
(ASCAP)

CRAIG COURTNEY
(ASCAP)

Adagio ♩ = ca. 66



Piano introduction in G major, 3/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords and eighth notes, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The tempo is Adagio, approximately 66 beats per minute.

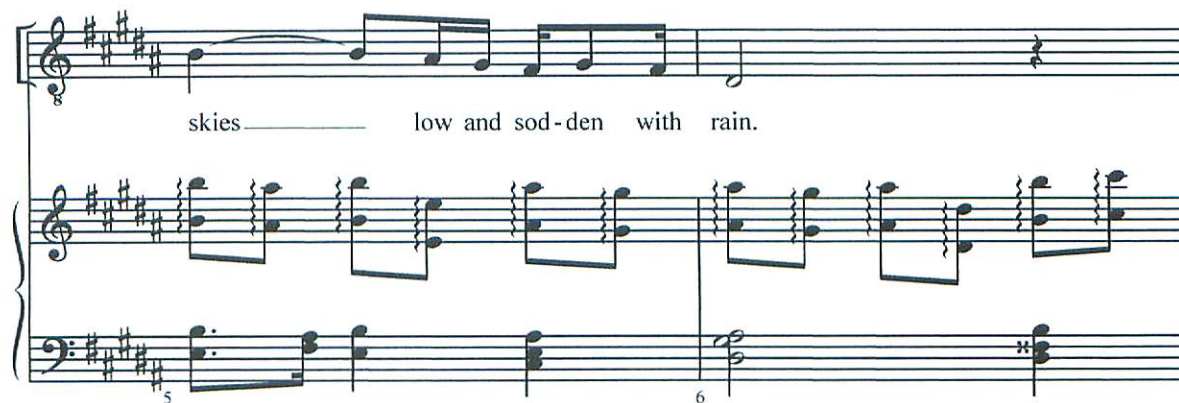
TENORS
mp



New branch-es drip-ping in gos-som-er green,

3 4 *simile*

The tenor vocal line begins with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "New branch-es drip-ping in gos-som-er green,". There are triplet markings (3) and a *simile* marking (4) in the piano part.



skies _____ low and sod-den with rain.

5 6

The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "skies _____ low and sod-den with rain.". There are markings (5) and (6) in the piano part.

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SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Warm earth that pul-ses with new - ness of life, _____

Warm earth that pul-ses with new - ness of life, _____

*rit.**a tempo**mp*

whis - per the prom - ise of spring.

whis - per the prom - ise of spring.

*rit.**a tempo*

mp Snow - caps melt slow-ly from high moun-tain peaks, chang -

mp Snow - caps from high moun-tain peaks, chang -

The first system of the score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The first vocal line starts with a melodic phrase marked *mp* and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The second vocal line continues the melody. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, spanning measures 11 and 12. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the left hand provides harmonic support with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

- ing to riv-ers and streams.

- ing to riv-ers and streams.

The second system of the score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The first vocal line continues the melody from the previous system. The second vocal line continues the melody. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, spanning measures 13 and 14. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the left hand provides harmonic support with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

Riv - ers find o-cean at long - jour-ney's end,

Riv - ers find o-cean at long jour-ney's end,

mp
Riv - ers at long jour-ney's end,

mp
Riv - ers at long jour-ney's end,

15 16

rit. *a tempo*
rise in a fine mist— of dreams.

rit. *a tempo*
rise in a fine mist— of dreams.

rit. *a tempo*
rise in a fine mist of dreams.

rit. *a tempo*
rise in a fine mist of dreams.

17 18