

When I sing

Text: Rabindranath TAGORE

Music: Jennifer THAM

Programme note

The text of this piece is part of the Gitanjali verses, lyrical poesy translated from Bengali into English as *Song Offering* by Nobel Peace Prize poet Rabindranath Tagore.

The lyrics are set to music for double choir—a children's choir (SSA) in conversation with adult mixed choir (SATB):

I SSA

Light, my light,
the light dances at the centre of my life,
the light strikes the chords of my love.

Light, my light—
The sky opens,
the wind runs wild,
laughter passes over the earth.

Light, my light—

The light shatters
into gold
on every cloud.

Light, my light—
I have brought my light to join
the carnival of lamps.

Light, my light—

II SATB

When I sing to make you dance,
when I sing, when I sing—
I truly know why there is music in leaves
and why waves send their chorus of voices
to the heart of the listening earth.

When I sing to make you dance,
when I sing, when I sing—
Thou hast made me known to friends
whom I know not
and made a brother of a stranger.
Thou hast brought the distant near.

When I sing to make you dance,
when I sing, when I sing—
My world will light its hundred different lamps
with thy flame
when I sing, when I sing—

The SSA choir sings in the bell-ringing sequences of an 8-bell plain hunt, ringing in—and over—the SATB hymn.

Jennifer Tham
30 June 2019

dedicated to Susanna Saw

When I sing

for double choir (SSA+SATB)

Music: Jennifer THAM
Text: Rabindranath TAGORE

Freely, like bells (15-20 sec)

S/S [S1] *mp cres.*
Light, my light...
[S2] *mp cres.*
my light, light, my light...

A *mp cres.*
light, my light...

♩ = 60 rubato, quasi senza misura

7 *mf*
S/S The light dan - ces the light strikes the chords of my
A The light dan - ces at the cen - tre of my life... the light strikes the chords of...

13
S/S Light...
love. Light, my light, my light
A Light, my light, my light.

17 *mf*
S/A When I sing
T/B When I sing

18

S/S Light,...

A Light, my light, ...

S/A to make you dance, when I sing, when I sing. I tru-ly

T/B you dance, when I sing, when I sing.

24

S/S the sky o... the wind runs... laugh-

A the sky... the wind runs wild, laugh-

S/A know why there is mu - sic in leaves, and why waves send their cho-rus of voi - ces,

T/B know there is mu - sic in waves, a cho - rus of voi - ces,

28

S/S ter pa(ss)...

A ter pass - es o-ver the earth.

S/A *decresc.* list' - ning earth. *m.* to the heart of the... When I sing, to make you dance,

T/B to the heart of... list'... When I sing, you dance,

Gratis
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