

ORION
LaBarr/Zimmer

SSAA, accompanied

WW1951

ORION

SSAA with Piano

Music by
Susan LaBarr

Lyrics by
Faith Zimmer

About the Work

My friend Faith Zimmer is a thoughtful and talented lyricist and composer whose words and music make me see ordinary things in a new, often spiritual, way. As I've gotten to know Faith's poem deeply while setting it to music in *Orion*, I feel that it is about each of us searching for our own inner worth. Orion is a constellation that sits on the celestial equator and is visible throughout the world. Where I live, it is most visible in winter. I like to think of this constellation as having strength even in the most difficult season.

No matter what the world tells us or what pressures there are on young women, what really matters, and what will help us through our difficult seasons, is the strength that we find within ourselves.

-Susan LaBarr

Orion

Most mourn the falling leaves,
The weight of death the ground receives.
Yet you rise in Winter's Chill,
And in the gloom you still believe.

Most mourn the setting sun.
The aging day is overcome.
Yet you rise in Twilight Still,
And night reveals you one by one.

Carefully the constellations
Bend their knees to your dictation.
Standing guard with quiver ready,
Stance you've held for cent'ries steady.
Warrior high above the earth,
Telling human beings of their worth.

Most mourn the sinking mast,
The ocean's pull into the vast.
Yet you rise at Memory's Will,
And you will stand on ages past.

-Faith Zimmer

About the Artists

Susan LaBarr is a composer and choral editor living and working in Springfield, Missouri. Her compositions are published by Walton Music, Morningstar Music, and Santa Barbara Music Publishing. Susan has completed commissions for choirs worldwide, and served as the Missouri Composer Laureate for 2012 and 2013. Her arrangement of *Quem pastores laudavere* appeared on New York Polyphony's 2014 Grammy-nominated album, *Sing Thee Nowell*. Her work for mezzo soprano and piano, *Little Black Book*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall in October 2019. Susan, her husband Cameron, and their son Elliott reside in Springfield, Missouri, where Susan works as Editor of Walton Music, Cameron is the Director of Choral Studies at Missouri State University, and Elliott is a celebrity among the neighborhood dogs.

Faith Zimmer graduated from Missouri State University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition and in 2021 with a graduate certificate in choral studies. During her time at MSU, Faith was a member of the Chorale, Chamber Choir, and Multicultural Ensemble. With these ensembles Faith has performed, often as a soloist, across North America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Much of Faith's compositional influence comes from studying composition and arranging with renowned composer and arranger, Alice Parker, as a Melodious Accord Fellow. Faith's choral works are published at Walton Music and are widely performed and recorded. As a singer/songwriter, Faith can be found on Spotify and iTunes under her name and with her band, Adamant Faith. Faith is also a visual artist, poet, a voice teacher and worship leader. Faith lives with her husband, Sam, in Springfield, Missouri, and can be contacted at FaithAZimmer@gmail.com.

Duration: Approx. 4:30

Commissioned by Kent Place School Chamber Singers; Edel Thomas, conductor,
through the generosity of Margery (Follinger) Davies '48
in memory of her friend and talented Kent Place singer, Jo (Smith) Davenport '48

Orion

SSAA and Piano

Lyrics by
FAITH ZIMMER (b. 1997)

Music by
SUSAN LABARR (b. 1981)

Deep and mysterious (♩ = 66)

S

A

Piano

p

8va

lots of pedal throughout

4

mp

Most mourn the fall - ing leaves, _____

mp

Most mourn the fall - ing leaves, _____

(8va)

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7

The weight of death — the ground re - ceives. — Yet you

The weight of death — the ground re - ceives. — Yet you

9

rise in Win - ter's Chill, — And in the

rise in Win - ter's Chill, — And in the

11

gloom you still be - lieve. —

gloom you still be - lieve. —

mp

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measures 14 and 15 show vocal staves with rests and piano accompaniment. Measure 16 shows vocal staves with rests and piano accompaniment with a fermata over the final chord.

17

mp

S1
Most mourn the set - ting sun,

mp

S2
Most mourn the set - ting sun,

mp

A
Most mourn the set - ting sun,

p

Musical score for measures 17-19. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measures 17 and 18 show vocal staves with the lyrics "Most mourn the set - ting sun," and piano accompaniment. Measure 19 shows vocal staves with rests and piano accompaniment with a fermata over the final chord.

19

The ag - ing day ___ is ov - er - come. ___ Yet you

The ag - ing day ___ is ov - er - come. ___ Yet you

The ag - ing day ___ is ov - er - come. ___ Yet you

21

rise in Twi - light Still, ___ And night re -

rise in Twi - light Still, ___ And night re -

rise in Twi - light Still, ___ And night re -

23

veals you one by one. _____

veals you one by one. _____

veals _____ you _____ one by one. _____

25 *mf*

S1 Care-ful - ly the con-stell - a - tions Bend their knees to your dic - ta - tion.

S2 *mf* Care - ful - ly, Bend their knees,

A1 *mf* Care - ful - ly, Bend their knees,

A2 *mf* Care - ful - ly, Bend _____ their knees,

mf

27

Stand-ing guard with qui-ver rea - dy, Stance you've held for cen-t'ries stea - dy.

Stand - ing guard. O

Stand - ing guard, O

Stand - ing guard, O

29

War - rior high a - bove the earth, — You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, — You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, — You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, — You tell us of our

31

worth. You tell us of our

worth. You tell us of our

worth. You tell us of our

worth. You tell us of our

Strings

33

worth.

worth.

worth.

worth.

mp

36 *mp*

Most mourn the sink - ing mast, _____

mp

Most mourn the sink - ing mast, _____

mp

Most mourn the sink - ing mast, _____

mp

Most mourn the sink - ing mast, _____

39

The oc - ean's pull in - to the vast.

The oc - ean's pull _____ in - to the vast. _____ Yet you

The oc - ean's pull _____ in - to the vast. _____ Yet you

The oc - ean's pull in - to the vast.

41

— You will rise,

rise at Mem - 'ry's Will, — And you will

rise, you — will rise, You will

— You will rise.

43

You will stand.

stand on a - ges past.

stand, you will stand.

You will stand.

45 *mf*

Care-ful - ly the con-stell - a - tions Bend their knees to your dic - ta - tion.

mf

Care - ful - ly, Bend their knees,

mf

Care - ful - ly, Bend their knees,

mf

Care - ful - ly, Bend — their knees,

mf

47

Stand-ing guard with qui-ver rea - dy, Stance you've held for cen-t'ries stea-dy.

Stand - ing guard. O

Stand - ing guard, O

Stand - ing guard, O

49

War - rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War - rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

51 *cresc.*

worth. ___

worth. ___

worth. ___

worth. ___ You ___

cresc.

f

54 *f*

You tell us of _____ our worth, You tell us of our worth, _____

_____ You tell us of our worth,

_____ You tell us of our worth, You tell us of our

tell us of our worth, You tell us of our

57

_____ You tell us, _____ tell _____

You tell us, _____ You tell us. _____

worth, _____ our

worth. You tell us of our worth. _____

60 *mp*

us. Care-ful-ly ___ we bend our knees, Stand-ing guard... ___

Care-ful-ly ___ we bend our knees, Stand-ing guard... ___

worth. ___ Care-ful-ly ___ we bend our knees, Stand-ing guard... ___

Care-ful-ly ___ we bend our knees, Stand-ing guard... ___

64 *mf*

War-rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War-rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War-rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

War-rior high a - bove the earth, ___ You tell us of our

67

worth. _____ You tell us of our worth. *p*

worth. _____ You tell us of our worth. *p*

worth. _____ You tell us of our worth. *p*

worth. _____ You tell us of our worth. *p*

70

rit.