

Gerald Cohen

From such sparks

for SATB chorus and piano

(2024)

PERUSAL SCORE

Program note:

From such sparks was commissioned by the Seattle Jewish Chorale in memory of Mary Pat Graham, who was the Music Director of the Chorale from 2009 to 2014, and who passed away in January 2023. The Chorale suggested several passages from a variety of sources as possible texts for the piece, from which I chose excerpts from chapter 31 of the biblical Book of Proverbs (a section known as “A woman of valor”), and from *Orot Hakodesh* by Abraham Isaac Kook. Together these texts communicate how the love and friendship of Mary Pat were felt by all who knew her, and that her life created “sparks...[which] illuminate the entire world”—the light of all people who strive, in all our different ways, to make the world a better place.

The composition uses distinct melodies for each of the three verses from Proverbs, and then moves to a new key and new texture for the “sparks” section. After this part builds to a climax, the three Proverbs melodies sound together, intertwined, with the dominant line being “Her light radiates undimmed through the night;” this is then followed by a gentle conclusion using the words from Kook combined with the phrase “Her light.”

The Seattle Jewish Chorale will present the premiere of *From such sparks* in the spring of 2024, conducted by Jacob Finkle.

—Gerald Cohen

Text:

She offers her palm to the needy, her hands she extends to the poor.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Her light radiates undimmed through the night.

Uminitsotot ka-eile avukot or yitkab 'tsu, v'ya-iru et kol ha-olam michvodam.

From such sparks, torches of light gather and illuminate the entire world with their glory.

Proverbs, chapter 31
Abraham Isaac Kook: Orot Hakodesh

The translations were compiled by the composer with the aid of several different translations, with special credit to Yaakov Dovid Shulman for his translation of the Kook (permission from translator), and to Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z”l for his translation of the line “Her light radiates undimmed through the night” (Creative Commons).

beloved Musical Director and true friend

Text: Proverbs Chap. 31;
Abraham Isaac Kook

From such sparks

for SATB chorus and piano

Music: Gerald Cohen

Moderate, flowing $\text{♩} = 104$

Soprano

Alto SOLO:
p

Alto

Tenor

Bass

She of - fers her palm, her— palm to the nee - dy, her hands she ex -

Moderate, flowing $\text{♩} = 104$

Piano

p legato

With Ped.

S

A tends, she ex - tends to the poor.

T

B

A FEW TENORS:

mp

She o - pens her mouth with

Pno.

mp *sempre legato*

14

S

A

T wis - dom, she o-pens her mouth with wis - dom, and the tea - ching of kind - ness,

B

Pno.

14

S

A

T wis - dom, she o-pens her mouth with wis - dom, and the tea - ching of kind - ness,

B

Pno.

19

S

A

T the tea - ching of kind - ness is on - her - tongue. —

B

TUTTI: *mf*

TUTTI: *mf*

TUTTI: *mf*

TUTTI: *mf*

Her light

Her light

Her light

Her light

19

S

A

T

B

Pno.

S 25

A

T

B

Pno.

PERUSA\ SCORE

S 30

A

T

B

Pno.

PERUSA\ SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

34

S her light ra - di-ates, her light ra - di-ates un -

A light ra - di - ates, un -

T 8 her light ra - di-ates, her light ra - di-ates un -

B her light ra - di-ates, her light ra - di-ates un -

Pno.

34

S

A

T

B

Pno.

38

S dimmed through the night

A dimmed through the night

T 8 dimmed through the night

B dimmed through the night

Pno.

38

rit. *a tempo*

S

A

T

B

Pno.

p *15* *Reo.*

Soprano (S) part: Measures 43-45. Dynamics: **p**, **p**. Vocal line: "From such sparks, from such sparks," with eighth-note patterns.

Alto (A) part: Measures 43-45. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal line: "from such sparks," with eighth-note patterns.

Tenor (T) part: Measures 43-45. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal line: "such sparks," with eighth-note patterns.

Bass (B) part: Measures 43-45. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal line: "such sparks," with eighth-note patterns.

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 43-45. Dynamics: **p**, **pp**, **p**. Pedal instruction: **Ped.**, **1 5**. Measure 44: **half Ped. throughout this passage**. Measure 45: **mp**.

Soprano (S) part: Measures 46-47. Dynamics: **mp**. Vocal line: "From such sparks, u - mi - ni-tso-tsot, u - mi - ni-tso-tsot ka -". Measure 47: **mp**.

Alto (A) part: Measures 46-47. Dynamics: **mp**. Vocal line: "u - mi - ni-tso-tsot, u - mi - ni-tso-tsot ka -".

Tenor (T) part: Measures 46-47. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal line: "u - mi - ni-tso-tsot ka -".

Bass (B) part: Measures 46-47. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal line: "u - mi - ni-tso-tsot ka -".

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 46-47. Dynamics: **p**. Pedal instruction: **l.h. sempre legato**.

PERUSA
SCORE

*torches of light gather
cresc.*

S ei - le a - vu - kot or — yit - kab' -
 A ei - le a - vu - kot or yit - kab' -
 T From such sparks, yit - kab' -
 B from such sparks, yit - kab' -
 Pno. { cresc.

PERUSAL SCORE

S tsu, —
 A tsu, —
 T tsu, —
 B tsu, —
 Pno. { f dim. f

PERUSAL SCORE

From such sparks,

Soprano (S) vocal line:

A (Alto) vocal line:

Tenor (T) vocal line:

Bass (B) vocal line:

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

half Ped. throughout this passage

*From such sparks, *cresc.**

*torches of light gather *cresc.**

*a - vu - kot or *cresc.**

*a - vu - kot or *cresc.**

mp cresc.

PERUSA
SCORE

Soprano (S) vocal line:

66 *yit - kab' - tsu,*

Alto (A) vocal line:

— *yit - kab' - tsu,*

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 *yit - kab' - tsu,*

Bass (B) vocal line:

— *yit - kab' - tsu,*

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

66 *ff*

69 *f*

and illuminate the entire world

Soprano (S) vocal line:

69 *v' - ya i - ru et kol ha - o -*

Alto (A) vocal line:

— *v' - ya i - ru et kol ha - o -*

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 *v' - ya i - ru et kol ha - o -*

Bass (B) vocal line:

— *v' - ya i - ru et kol ha - o -*

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment:

69 *f*

* *(b)* *With Ped.*

with their glory,

S lam mich - vo - - dam, _____ v' - ya -

A lam mich - vo - - dam, _____ v' - ya -

T lam mich - vo - - dam, _____ v' - ya -

B lam mich - vo - - dam, _____ v' - ya -

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

and illuminate the entire world
cresc.

S cresc. - ru ____ et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo -

A cresc. - ru ____ et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo -

T cresc. - ru ____ et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo -

B cresc. - ru ____ et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo -

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

with their glory.

ff

S

A

T

B

dam,

8

ff

Pno.

78

78

ff

dim.

rit.

S

A

T

B

81

rit.

Pno.

81

mf cresc.

f

PERUSAL SCORE

This musical score page contains five systems of music. The top system (measures 78-79) features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano part. The vocal parts sing sustained notes with dynamics ff, while the piano part plays eighth-note patterns. The middle system (measures 80-81) shows the vocal parts resting, and the piano part continues its eighth-note pattern with a dynamic change to dim. and a ritardando. The bottom system (measures 82-83) shows the vocal parts resting again, and the piano part begins a new eighth-note pattern with dynamics mf, cresc., and f. The vocal parts have 'dam,' and '8' markings above them. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid across the page.

a tempo

S 85 *f*
Her light ra - di-ates, her light ra - di-ates,

A

T 8 *f*
She of - fers her palm, her palm to the

B
Light, light

Pno.
(l.h. *sempre legato*)

PERUSAL SCORE

S 89
her light ra di-ates un - dimmed through the night.

A
her hands she ex - tends, she ex - tends to the

T 8 nee - diy She

B
ra - - - di - - - ates,

Pno.

PERUSAL

PERUSAL SCORE

Soprano (S)

93 Her light ra - di-ates, her light ra - di-ates,

Alto (A)

poor. She of - fers her palm, her palm to the

Tenor (T)

8 o-opens her mouth with wis - dom, o-opens her mouth with wis - dom

Bass (B)

light, light

Piano (Pno.)

93

Soprano (S)

97 her light ra - di-ates un - dimmed through the night.

Alto (A)

nee dy, he hands she ex - tends to the poor.

Tenor (T)

8 and the tea - ching of kind - ness is on her tongue.

Bass (B)

ra - - - di - - - ates.

Piano (Pno.)

97

101

S A T B Pno.

rit.

dim.

rit.

101

S A T B Pno.

rit.

Somewhat slower $\text{♩} = 88$

S A T B Pno.

mp

Her light,

mp

From such sparks,

mp

Her light, her light,

mp

From such sparks,

Somewhat slower $\text{♩} = 88$

Pno.

p

Re.

Re.

Re.

PERUSAHL SCORE

III

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: "her light, her light,"

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: "tor - ches of light"

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: "her light,"

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: "tor - ches of light"

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment in 3/4 time, dynamic *p*, key signature changes from 5 flats to 3 sharps.

115

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: "world with their", dynamic *p cresc.*, *mf dim.*

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: "il - lu - mi-nate the whole world", dynamic *mp* (ALTO SOLO), *cresc.*, *mf*, *mf dim.*

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: "with their", dynamic *mf dim.*

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: "the whole world with their", dynamic *p cresc.*, *mf dim.*

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment in 3/4 time, dynamic *p*, *cresc.*, *mf dim.*, *p*, *mf dim.*

115

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment in 3/4 time, dynamic *p*, *cresc.*, *mf dim.*, *p*, *mf dim.*

Réo.

*

121 **P**
 S glo - - - ry.
 A glo - - - ry.
 T **p** glo - - - ry.
 B glo - - - ry.
 Pno. { **p** rit. *poco* *pp* *poco* *pp* *poco* rit. (8^{va}) **8va** - - -

glo - - - ry.
 rit. (8^{va}) **8va** - - -

PERUSAL SCORE