

Gerald Cohen

From such sparks

For SATB Chorus and Piano

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

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 presented the premiere of *From such sparks* in June 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.

Uminitsotsot ha-ete 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 Yaacov 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 ♩ = 104

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Moderate, flowing ♩ = 104

p legato

With Ped.

8

S

A

T

B

Pno.

8

ALTO SOLO:
p

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

tends, she ex - tends to the poor.

A FEW TENORS:
mp

She o - pens her mouth with

mp sempre legato

14

S

A

T

B

Pno.

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

19

S

A

T

B

Pno.

8 the tea - ching of kind - ness is on — her — tongue. — Her light

mf

TUTTI: *mf*

TUTTI: *mf*

mf

25

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

A
ra-di-ates, her light ra-di-ates, her light — ra - di-ates un -

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

B

Pno.

30

S
dimmed through the night. Her light ra-di-ates, *f*

A
dimmed through the night. Her *f*

T
8 dimmed through the night. Her light ra-di-ates, *f*

B
f
Her light ra-di-ates,

Pno.

34

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

A light ra - di - ates, un -

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

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

Pno.

38

S dimmed through the night.

A dimmed through the night.

T dimmed through the night.

B dimmed through the night.

Pno.

rit. *a tempo*

rit. *a tempo*

p

43 *p*

S From such sparks, *p*

A from such sparks,

T

B

Pno.

pp

p

leg.

half Ped. throughout this passage

46 *mp*

S From such sparks, *mp*

u - mi - ni-tso-tso-t, u - mi - ni-tso-tso-t ka -

A *mp*

u - mi - ni-tso-tso-t, u - mi - ni-tso-tso-t ka -

T

B

Pno.

(l.h. sempre legato)

51

S ei - le a - vu - kot or yit - kab' -
cresc.

A ei - le a - vu - kot or yit - kab' -
cresc.

T From such sparks, yit - kab' -
mp *mf*

B from such sparks, yit - kab' -
mp *mf*

Pno. *p* *cresc.*

56

S tsu, _____

A tsu, _____

T tsu, _____

B tsu, _____

Pno. *f* *dim.*

59 *From such sparks,*

S

A *mp*
u - mi - ni - tso - tsot,

T *mp*
u - mi - ni - tso - tsot, _____ u - mi - ni - tso - tsot ka - ei - le

B *mp*
u - mi - ni - tso - tsot, _____ ni - tso - tsot ka - ei - le

Pno. *p*
half Ped. throughout this passage

63 *mp* *torches of light gather*

S From such sparks, _____ *cresc.*

A _____ *cresc.*
from such sparks, _____ a - vu - kot or _____

T _____ a - vu - kot or _____

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

Pno. *mp cresc.*

66 *f* *ff*

S yit - kab' - tsu,

A yit - kab' - tsu,

T yit - kab' - tsu,

B yit - kab' - tsu,

Pno. *ff*

69 *f* *f*

S and illuminate the entire world
v' - ya i - ru et kol ha - o -

A v' - ya - i - ru et kol ha - o -

T v' - ya - i - ru et kol ha - o -

B v' - ya - i - ru et kol ha - o -

Pno. *f*

* *With Ped.*

72 *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.

75 *and illuminate the entire world*
cresc.

S i - ru et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo - *with their glory.*

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

T i - ru et kol ha - o - lam mich - vo -

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

Pno. *cresc.*

78 *ff*

S *dam,*

A *ff* *dam,*

T *ff* *dam,*

B *ff* *dam,*

Pno. *ff* *dim.* 3 3 3 3

81

S

A

T

B

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *f* *rit.*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

85 *a tempo* **f**

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

A

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

B **f** Light, light

85 *a tempo*

Pno. (l.h. sempre legato)

Note: In mm. 85-92, the voices can be assigned to create the best balance: altos and tenors can sing in unison throughout these measures, and/or a few altos can sing with the sopranos to augment that melody.

89

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

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

T **f** nee She

B ra - di - ates,

89

Pno.

93

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

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

T o-pens her mouth with wis-dom, o-pens her mouth with wis-dom

B light, light

93

Pno.

97

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

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

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

B ra-di-ates.

97

Pno.

101 *rit.*

S
A
T
B

Pno.

Somewhat slower ♩ = 88

S
A
T
B

mp
Her light

mp
From such sparks,

mp
Her light, her light,

mp
From such sparks,

Somewhat slower ♩ = 88

Pno.

111

S her light, her light,

A tor - ches of light

T her light,

B tor - ches of light

Pno.

8

Reo.

Reo.

115

S world with their

A ALTO SOLO: *mp* il - lu - mi - nate the whole world with their

T world with their

B the whole world with their

Pno.

8

p cresc. mf dim.

cresc. mf mf dim.

p cresc. mf dim.

cresc. mf dim.

Reo.

*

121 *p*

S
glo - - - ry.

A
glo - - - ry.

T
8 glo - - - ry.

B
glo - - - ry.

Pno.

p *dim.*

Leg. *Leg.* *

125 *rit.* *m* *poco*

S
glo - - - ry.

A
pp *poco*
glo - - - ry.

T
pp *poco*
glo - - - ry.

B

rit. *8va*

125 *pp*

Pno.

Leg.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY