

Partners

Cleaning the Storm Windows

*poem by Sarah Getty
music by Pamela J. Marshall*

for SATB chorus & piano



Partners

Cleaning the Storm Windows

by Pamela J. Marshall
for SATB chorus & piano

dedicated to David Getty and The Master Singers of Lexington

Composer's Notes

Partners is a special group of choral pieces that set poems by Sarah Getty. Sarah was a celebrated poet from Bedford, Massachusetts and a member of The Master Singers of Lexington, MA USA. Her husband David is still a chorus member. During a previous project with the chorus, David gave me three wonderful volumes of Sarah's work and I set one of them as a spoken word text with music. Knowing my enthusiasm for Sarah's poetic sensitivity and in her memory, Master Singers music director Adam Grossman and David Getty commissioned me to create a new piece for the chorus with Sarah's poems. COVID intervened and my inspiration waned, but in 2022, the project began to come together and The Master Singers gave an inspired premiere in November 2022.

The three poems of **Partners** are about shared experiences, between colleagues (who are circus dogs), between husband and wife, and between mother and daughter. The three choral pieces are published separately. You could perform them by themselves, as a set, or spread throughout a program. The pieces are Troupers (6:30), Cleaning the Storm Windows (5:00), and That Woman (5:00).

About Cleaning the Storm Windows

The music for "Cleaning the Storm Windows" is quirky. The tone is set by the opening line "They look like idiots, or the meeting of space aliens". I can imagine the piano interludes providing space for the window cleaners to do their work. I used lots of text painting, reflecting the meaning of the words in a musical gesture. For example, "gesturing in palm-out circles" has musical lines that rise and fall in a circular way. The dialog between husband and wife divides nicely between the men and women of the chorus.

--- Pamela J. Marshall
June 2023



+1 781-862-0884
info@spindrift.com
www.spindrift.com

Cleaning the Storm Windows

by Sarah Getty

Published in ***The Land of Milk and Honey*** (© 1996 Sarah Getty) page 30.

Used with the kind permission of David Getty for the estate of Sarah Getty.

They look like idiots,
or the meeting of space aliens,
gesturing in palm-out circles
flat on the air between them.
They crouch, bend nearer, squint,
pointing, directing each other,

"There, no—over there—a smear."
"No, that's on your side."
All but nose-to-nose, they never touch.
She grimaces, rubs. "Sorry,
but I can see that it's on your side,
Honey." He brings a work-lamp nearer.

They look and wince.
"It's a mess all over;
we'll have to start again."
In the bright light they
squirt and rub, stand and squat
like off-beat mirror twins

or actors botching a bit of mime.
"Jesus, let's quit," she says.
He says he guesses it'll do.
they maneuver the empty square
out of the garage, ludicrous
and careful as a vaudeville skit.

She says, "Mr. Bones, it 'pears to me
that your side still could use some work."

Cleaning the Storm Windows

Poco marcato ♩ = 100

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, measures 1-4. All staves contain whole rests.

Piano

Poco marcato ♩ = 100

f *mp* *p*

Piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, measures 1-4. Measure 1: *f*. Measure 2: *mp*. Measure 3: *p*. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

Measures 5-7. Measures 5-6: Vocal staves (S., A., T., B.) contain whole rests. Piano accompaniment continues. Measure 7: Vocal staves contain whole rests. Piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The piano part includes a dynamic marking *f* and an 8va marking.

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

8

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

12

S. *mf* They look like ges-

A. *mf* i - di - ots, a - li - ens,

T. *mf* i - di - ots, or the meet - ing of space a - li - ens,

B. *mf* i - di - ots, or the meet - ing of space a - li - ens,

Pno.

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

16

S. *mf* - tur - ing in palm-out cir - cles cir - cles flat on the air be - tween them.

A. *mf* ges - tur - ing in palm-out cir - cles cir - cles flat on the air be - tween them.

T. 8 in palm-out cir - cles flat on the air be - tween them.

B. *mf* ges - tur - ing in palm-out cir cles flat on the air be - tween them.

Pno.

21

S. *p* They crouch, bend near - er, squint, —

A. *p* They crouch, bend near - er, squint, —

T. 8 *p* They crouch, bend near - er,

B. *p* They crouch, bend near - er,

Pno.

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

24

mp *mf*

S. point-ing di-rect - ing each o- ther, —

A. point - ing, di-rect - ing each o - ther, —

T. *mf* squint, di - rect - ing each o - ther, —

B. *mf* squint, di - rect - ing each o - ther, —

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

28

mf

S. "There, no o-ver there, a smear." —

A. *mf* "There, no, o-ver there, a smear." —

T. 8

B.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

32

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Pno. *mp*

"No - oh, - that's on your side."

37

S. *mp*

A. *mp*

T. *mp*

B. *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp*

All but nose to nose,

All but nose to nose, they

All but nose to nose, they ne -

they ne - ver

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

41

S. *f* they ne - ver they ne - ver they ne - ver they ne - ver

A. *f* ne - ver they ne - ver they ne - ver ne - ver

T. *f* ver ne - ver they ne - ver they ne - ver ne - ver

B. *f* ah they ne - ver they ne - ver ne -

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

45

S. *mp* touch... She gri - ma - ces, rubs...

A. *mp* touch... She gri - ma - ces, rubs...

T. *mp* ne - ver touch...

B. *mp* ver touch... grim - a - ces

Pno. *f* *mp*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

49

S. *mf* "Sor - ry, but I can see that it's on your side, Hon- ey."

A. *mf* "Sor - ry, but I can see that it's on your side, Hon- ey."

T. rubs. _____

B. rubs. _____

Pno. *mf*

53

S. *mf* *p* They look and wince.

A. *mf* *p* They look and wince.

T. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* He brings a work lamp near-er. They look and wince. "It's a

B. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* He brings a work lamp near-er. They look and wince. "It's a

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

58

S. "we will have to start a- gain."
(we 'll*)

A. o- ver; we will have to start a - gain."
(we 'll*)

T. mess all o- ver; we will have to start a- gain."
(we 'll*)

B. mess all o- ver; we will have to start a- gain."
(we 'll*)

Pno. *f*

63

S. *mp* In the bright light they squirt

A. *mp* In the bright light they squirt

T. *mp* In the bright light they

B. *mp* In the bright light they

Pno. *p* *mp*

*Original text in poem

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

67

S. and rub, stand and squat like off - beat

A. and rub, stand and squat like off - beat

T. squirt and rub, stand squat like off - beat

B. squirt and rub, stand squat like off - beat

Pno.

71

S. *f* mir-ror twins *mf* In the

A. *f* mir-ror twins

T. *f* mir-ror twins

B. *f* mir-ror twins

Pno. *f* *mf*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

74

mp

S. bright__ light they squirt and rub,__ they stand and

mf

A. bright light__

mf

T. bright light__

mf

B. bright light__

mp

mp

Pno.

78

f

S. squat they squirt and rub,__ they stand and squat they stand they stand and squat Like

f

A. squat they squirt and rub,__ they stand and squat they stand they stand and squat like

f

T. stand and squat they squirt and rub,__ stand they squirt, rub, stand__ and squat like

f

B. stand and squat they squirt and rub,__ stand they squirt, rub, stand__ and squat like

Pno.

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

82 *f* *mf*

S. *f* *mf*
off-beat mir-ror twins or ac - tors bot - ching a bit of mime.____

A. *f* *mf*
off-beat mir-ror twins or ac - tors bot - ching a bit of mime.____

T. *f* *mf*
off-beat mir-ror twins or ac - tors bot - ching a bit of mime.____

B. *f* *mf*
off-beat mir-ror twins or ac - tors bot - ching a bit of mime.____

Pno. *f* *pp*

87 *mp*

S. *mp*
"Je - sus, let's_

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Pno. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

poco rit. . . . Poco meno mosso ♩=90

91

S. quit," she says. square

A. square

T. *mp* He says he guess-es it'll do. *mp* *mf*

B. They man - eu-ver the emp-ty square

Pno. *mp* *mf*

poco rit. . . . Poco meno mosso ♩=90

95

S. out_ of the gar-age, lu-di-crous as_ *p*

A. out_ of the gar - age, lu-di-crous as_ *p*

T. *mp* lu-di-crous and care-ful as_ *p*

B. *mp* lu-di-crous and care-ful as_ *p*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

Tempo primo ♩=100

99

f

S. as a vau-de-ville skit.____

f

A. as a vau-de-ville skit.____

f

T. as a vau-de-ville skit.____

f

B. as a vau-de-ville skit.____

Tempo primo ♩=100

mp

Pno.

Meno mosso ♩=90

104

mf

S. She says, "Mis - ter Bones,____

mf

A. She says, "Mis - ter Bones,____

T.

B.

Meno mosso ♩=90

f

Pno.

Cleaning the Storm Windows - SATB & Piano

107 Tempo primo ♩=100

S. *it 'pears to me that your side still could use some work."*

A. *it 'pears to me that your side still could use some work."*

T. *ah* *mp*

B. *ah* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *f* Tempo primo ♩=100



www.spindrift.com
info@spindrift.com
+1-781-862-0884

Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra

Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts
Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
Traditional Christmas (treble chorus or soloist, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard

Suite for harpsichord or piano
For piano: Daydream, Stomp, Imagine That Time Stops
Wordless Prayer for piano or organ
Playbook (Pacem Student Composing Project) for piano

Chorus

Bee-Song for SATB or SSAA chorus & piano - **Project:Encore selection**
Birding in Winter for SATB chorus & piano - **Project:Encore selection**
Deepest Shade for SATB chorus
The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Shepherds and Angels for SATB chorus, violin, harp, tambourine
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Walden at Evening for solo horn, SATB chorus, percussion

Strings

Arcanum for solo violin, Soliloquy for solo cello
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Truth Becoming for string quartet
Soliloquy for cello
Rising for viola or cello
Quinteto sobre las poemas de Carlos Pintado for violin, viola, cello, doublebass, piano

Woodwinds & Brass

Poetry-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano
Communing with Birds for flute
Examine Variations for flute & cello
More mixed ensemble pieces on www.spindrift.com

Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar
Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
Zoa for flute and harp

Colored Leaves for solo horn
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet or choir and drums
"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Star in the East (traditional carol) for 8 horns or horn choir
Wanderer for brass quintet
Among Friends for 4 horns or horn choir
Out of the Depths for horn choir

Recordings

Through the Mist, Ravello Records. Chamber music for winds, strings, harp
Visit www.spindrift.com for complete list. Demos available for many titles