Refugees

by Pamela J. Marshall for SATB chorus





Refugees

music and text by Pamela J. Marshall

It was not safe. To avoid the next attack, we had to leave. We wandered, wondered what would happen next.

Left foot leading, then the right; Interminable travel in the darkness, searching for some kind of light.

We lost our way; we could not ask for help. We had no guide to show us green pastures of goodness and mercy.

We could have stayed, it was not safe we feared to die we chose to go

Now we wander, it is not safe we wonder where we might find a home.

Composer's Notes

I wrote Refugees in response to a call for scores with the theme of the "road not taken". For Syrian refugees in 2015, they could stay or leave their country, both dangerous and difficult choices. I was led to write this poem by a radio story about refugees from Syria, Eritrea, and elsewhere, in roadside camps in Calais, France, trying to cross the channel or go through the Channel Tunnel on the underside of lorries, for what might be a better life in Great Britain, especially for the children.

Usually, the "road not taken" implies what-if, a pleasant musing about other possibilities. But, for a refugee, what might have befallen the narrator if they chose a different path? If they choose to stay put, they are chancing the dangerous environment of war. If they choose the path of the refugee, that road is also full of risk, with little aid from the rest of the world. In my poem, one road, staying home in the war zone, is more certain — death for some or all of them. The road they do take is hard, but it might, just might, turn out better.

--- Pamela J. Marshall

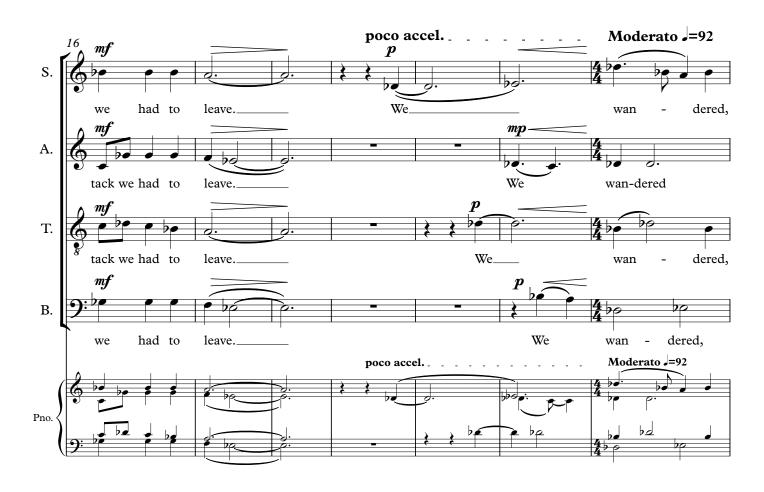
Spindrift Music Company 38 Dexter Road Lexington, MA 02420 www.spindrift.com

Cover image of refugees on foot adapted from Freepik.com

Refugees



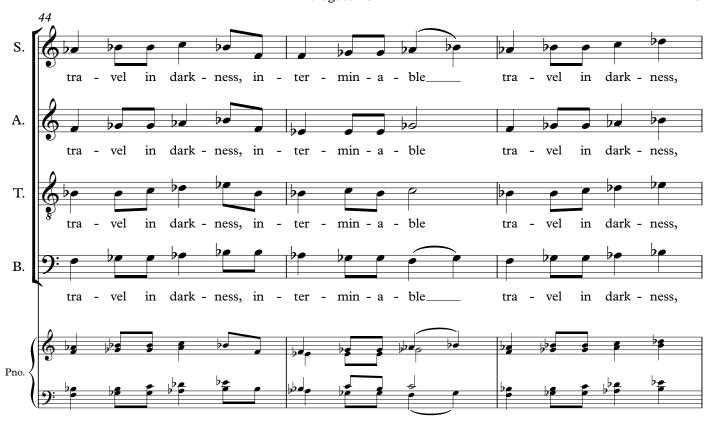


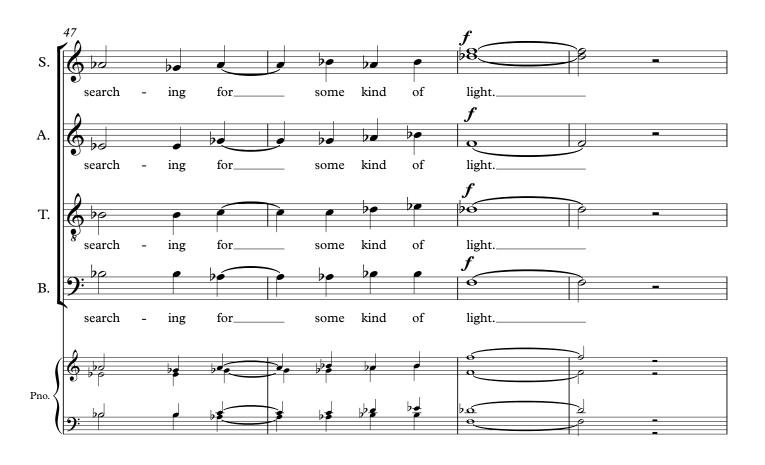






















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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Chorus & Solo Voice

Birding in Winter for SATB chorus
Deepest Shade for SATB chorus
The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Bee-Song for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano
Grand grand mother is returning for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano
How Spiders Came to Hawaii for SATB, trombone, piano
Shepherds and Angels for SATB chorus, violin, harp, tamborine
Songs from a Quaker Heart for SATB chorus, piano
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Windshine for SATB chorus and cello
Wordless Prayer for SATB chorus

Body and Soul Vol.1 for mezzo-soprano and string trio Body and Soul Vol.2 for soprano, flute, cello, piano Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano Sky's Mirror for voice and cello A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

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

Strings

Arcanum for violin
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
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar

Winds & Brass

Poetry-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano Wanderer for brass quintet Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano "wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums Zoa for flute and harp

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)

Recordings

Through the Mist on Ravello Records: chamber music for winds, strings, harp Ruminations on Bandcamp: electro-acoustic Visit www.spindrift.com for complete list. Demos available for many titles

Marshall

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