

*Partners*

# **That Woman**

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

---

*for SATB chorus & piano*



*Partners*  
**That Woman**  
*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 That Woman**

Sarah's poem "That Woman" spoke to me on many levels—my enduring enthusiasm for birds, missing my own mother, realizing how much we carry our parents onward in our own life. Sarah reveals slowly that this companion walking with you is your mother, invisibly part of your subconscious, who formed your attitudes and whose example taught you how to raise your own child. My musical setting has frequent moments of canons where one group of singers echoes another, as the connections of daughter to mother resonate back through the generations.

--- Pamela J. Marshall  
June 2023



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

# That Woman

by Sarah Getty

Published in *The Land of Milk and Honey* (© 1996 Sarah Getty) page 22.

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

Look! A flash of orange along the river's edge –  
"oriole!" comes to your lips like instinct, then  
it's vanished—lost in the foliage,

in all your head holds, getting on with the day.  
But not gone for good. There is that woman  
walks unseen beside you with her apron

pockets full. Days later, or years, when you least  
seem to need it—reading Frost on the subway,  
singing over a candled cake—she'll reach

into a pocket and hand you this intact  
moment—the river, the orange streak parting  
the willow, and the "oriole!" that leapt

to your lips. Unnoticed, steadfast, she gathers  
all this jumble, sorts it, hands it back like  
prizes from Cracker Jack. She is your mother,

who first said, "Look! a robin!" and pointed  
and there was a robin, because her own  
mother had said to her, "Look!" and pointed,

and so on, back to the beginning: the mother,  
the child, and the world. The damp bottom  
on one arm and pointing with the other:

the peach tree, the small rocks in the shallows,  
the moon and the man in the moon. So you keep on,  
seeing, forgetting, faithfully followed;

and you yourself, unwitting, gaining weight,  
have thinned to invisibility, become  
that follower. Even now, your daughter

doesn't see you at her elbow as she walks  
the beach. There! a gull dips to the Pacific,  
and she points and says to the baby, "Look!"

# That Woman

**Moderato, gracile** ♩ = 72

**SOPRANO**  
Ah ta ta ta oo

**ALTO**  
Ah ta ta ta

**TENOR**  
Ah ta ta ta ta ta oo

**BASS**  
Ah

**Piano**  
**Moderato, gracile** ♩ = 72

**S.**  
ta ta ta oo ta ta ta

**A.**  
ta ta ta oo ta ta ta

**T.**  
ta ta ta oo ta la ta la ta la

**B.**  
ta ma ta ma ta ma oo

**Pno.**

That Woman - SATB & Piano

20 *pp* *p* *mf* *poco accel.*

S. *pp* *p* *mf*  
 toh ta la ta la la tah

A. *p* *mf*  
 ta ta la la tah

T. *pp* *p* *mf*  
 8 toh ta ta la tah

B. *p* *mf*  
 ta ta la tah

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*

29 **A** *Poco piu mosso* ♩=80 *mf*

S. *mf*  
 Look A flash of or-ange o-ri-ole

A. *mf*  
 a-long the ri-ver's edge comes to your lips like in- stinct,

T. *p* *mm/ah\**  
 8 mm/ah mm/ah mm/ah mm/ah

B. *p* *mm/ah\**  
 mm/ah mm/ah mm/ah mm/ah

**A** *Poco piu mosso* ♩=80 *p*

Pno. *p*

(\*Choose mm or ah for best balance)

That Woman - SATB & Piano

33

S. *pp*  
ah ah then

A. *pp*  
ah ah then

T. *pp*  
ah ah then

B. *mp*  
ah ah then it's van-ished

Pno. *pp*  
*mp* 5

36

S. *mp*  
lost in the fo - li - age,

A. *mp*  
lost in the fo - li - age, in all your head holds,

T. *mp*  
lost in all your head holds,

B. *mp*  
lost get-ting on with the day.

Pno. *mp*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

38 *poco accel.* *poco rit.* *p* *mf*

S. *p* *mf*  
not gone for good.

A. *p* *mf*  
But not gone for good.

T. *p* *mf*  
But not gone for good.

B. *p* *mf*  
But not gone for good.

Pno. *p* *poco accel.* *poco rit.* *pp*

41 **C** Allegretto con spirito ♩ = 80 *mf* *p* *mp*

S. *mf* *p* *mp*  
There is that wo-man There is that wo-man

A. *mf*  
walks un-seen be-side you

T. *p*  
with her

B.

Pno. **C** Allegretto con spirito ♩ = 80 *mp*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

45

S. *mf* that wo - man\_ There... **D**

A.

T. *mf* a - pron\_ pock-ets full.

B. *mf* with her a - pron\_ pock-ets full. **D**

Pno. *mf*

48

S. *mf* Days la-ter, or years,

A. *mf* Days la-ter, or years,

T. *mf* Days la-ter, or years,

B. *mf* Days la-ter, or years,

Pno. *f* *p* *mf* *mf*



That Woman - SATB & Piano

52 *mp* *p*

S. when you least seem to need it she'll reach

A. *mp* *mf* *p* when you least read-ing Frost on the sub - way, she'll reach

T. *mf* read-ing Frost on the sub - way,

B. *mp* *mf* when you least seem to need it sing-ing o-ver a can-dled cake\_

Pno. *p*

57 *f* *E*

S. in - to a pock-et and hand you this in - tact mo-ment

A. *f* in - to a pock-et and hand you this in - tact mo-ment

T. *p* *f* hand you this in - tact mo-ment

B. *p* *f* hand you this in - tact mo-ment

Pno. *p* *f* *E*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

61

S. *mf* the\_ ri - ver\_ the\_ or - ange streak

A. *mf* the\_ or - ange streak part-ing the

T. 8

B.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

65

S. *f* "or - i - ole!" *mp* that leapt\_ to your lips.

A. *f* "or - i - ole!" *mp* that leapt\_ to your lips.

T. 8 *f* and the "or - i - ole!" *mp* that leapt\_ to your lips.

B. *f* and the "or - i - ole!" *mp* that leapt\_ to your lips.

Pno. *mf*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

68 **F**

S. *mp* un - no-ticed,

A. *mp* un - no-ticed,

T. *mp* un-no-ticed,

B. *mp* un-no-ticed,

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

73

S. stead-fast, she ga-thers all this jum-ble, hands it back like pri-zes from

A. stead-fast, she ga-thers all this jum-ble, hands it back from

T. *8* stead-fast, she ga-thers jum-ble, sorts it, back like pri-zes from

B. stead-fast, she ga-thers jum-ble, sorts it, back like pri-zes from

Pno.

That Woman - SATB & Piano

78

S. *f* Crack-er Jack. She is your mo-ther, *mf* "Look, a ro- bin!"and

A. *f* Crack-er Jack. She is your mo-ther, *mf* who first said, "Look, a ro- bin!"and

T. *f* Crack-er Jack. She is your mo-ther, *mf* be-

B. *f* Crack-er Jack. She is your mo-ther,

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf*

84

S. *mf* poin-ted and there was a ro-bin, the

A. *mp* poin-ted and there was a rob-in, "Look!" and poin-ted and so on,

T. *mp* cause her own mo-ther said to her, "Look!" and poin-ted and so on, back to the be-gin- ning:

B. *mp* back to the be-gin- ning:

Pno.

That Woman - SATB & Piano

89

S. *f*  
mo-ther, the child, and the world. the

A. *p*  
The damp bot-tom on one arm and poin-ting with the o ther:

T. *p*  
The damp bot-tom on one arm and poin-ting with the o ther:

B. *mf*  
the mo-ther, the child, and the world.

Pno.

94

S. *ff*  
peach tree, the small rocks in the shal-lows, the moon and the man in the

A. *f* *ff*  
peach tree, the small rocks in the shal-lows, the moon and the man in the

T. *f* *ff*  
peach tree, small rocks, shal - lows, the moon the man in the

B. *f* *ff*  
peach tree, small rocks, shal - lows, the moon the man in the

Pno. *mp*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

99 **H** **Meno mosso** ♩=68

S. *pp* moon. keep on, and *mp*

A. *pp* moon. keep on, and *mp*

T. *pp* moon. keep on, and *mp*

B. *mp* moon. So you keep on, see-ing, for - get-ting, faith-ful-ly fol-lowed; and *mp*

Pno. *pp*

**H** **Meno mosso** ♩=68

105 **Piu meno mosso** ♩=64

S. *pp* you your - self,

A. *p* you your - self, un - wit-ting, gain-ing weight, have thinned

T. *p* you your - self, un - wit-ting, gain-ing weight, have thinned to

B. *pp* you your - self

**Piu meno mosso** ♩=64

Pno.

That Woman - SATB & Piano

112 **Meno mosso, relaxed** ♩=60

*p*

S. in vis-i-bil-i-ty, in vis-i-bil-i - ty, be-come that

A. *p* in vis-i-bil-i-ty, *p* be-come that fol-low-er. be-come that fol-low-er. be-come that

T. *p* be-come that fol-low-er. be-come that fol-low-er.

B. in vis-i-bil-i - ty, in-vis-i-bil-i - ty,

**Pno.** *pp*

116 **In 1, like an echo** ♩=54

S. fol-low-er.

A. fol-low-er.

T.

B.

**Pno.** *pp*

That Woman - SATB & Piano

**I** Tempo primo, relaxed ♩=72

121

S. *pp* Ev - en now, mm\_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp* Ev-en now, your daugh-ter does-n't see you at her

T. *pp* Ev - en now, mm\_\_\_\_\_

B. *pp* Ev - en now, mm\_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *p*

126

S. mm\_\_\_\_\_ as she walks, she walks the beach.

A. el-bow as she walks, she walks the beach.

T. mm\_\_\_\_\_ walks, she walks the beach.

B. mm\_\_\_\_\_ walks, she walks the beach.

Pno. *p* *mf*



That Woman - SATB & Piano

Meno mosso ♩=64

131 *mf*

S. There! a gull dips to the Pa - ci - fic,

A. *mf* There! a gull *mp* and she points

T. *mf* There! a gull

B. *mp* and she

Pno. *mp*

Meno mosso ♩=64

133 (\*All: raise free hand as if to point)

S. (\*All: look into distance and point) *mf* "Look!"

A. *mf* and says to the ba - by, "Look!"

T. *mf* "Look!"

B. *mf* points and says to the ba - by, "Look!"

Pno. *mf*

5 3



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](http://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](http://www.spindrift.com) for complete list. Demos available for many titles