

Little Blades of Grass
TTBB choir, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

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Little Blades of Grass

for a cappella TTBB choir

For the Lipscomb University Men's Choral Festival, Dr. Gary P. Wilson, conductor



Timothy C Takach.com

Text:

In heaven,
Some little blades of grass
Stood before God.
“What did you do?”
Then all save one of the little blades
Began eagerly to relate
The merits of their lives.
This one stayed a small way behind,
Ashamed.
Presently, God said,
“And what did you do?”
The little blade answered, “Oh my Lord,
Memory is bitter to me,
For, if I did good deeds,
I know not of them.”
Then God, in all His splendor,
Arose from His throne.
“Oh, best little blade of grass!” He said.

- *Stephen Crane*

Little Blades of Grass

Stephen Crane $\text{♩} = 92$

for TTBB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach (2013)

Tenor 1 *mp*
In heav - en, _____ Some lit - tle blades of grass

Tenor 2 *mp*
In heav - en, _____ Some lit - tle blades of grass

Baritone *mp*
In heav - en, _____ Some lit - tle blades of grass

Bass *mp*
In heav - en, _____ Some lit - tle blades of grass

6 *mf*
T 1 Stood before God. They stood be - fore God. Then *mf*

T 2 Stood before God. They stood be - fore God. "What did you do?" Then *mf*

B Stood before God. They stood be - fore God. "What did you do?" Then *mf*

B Stood before God. They stood be - fore God. "What did you do?" Then *mf*

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For more information and to purchase scores please email tim@timothyctakach.com
3714 Sheridan Ave N., Minneapolis, MN 55412

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12

T 1
all save one of the lit - tle blades Be-gan ca-ger-ly to re -

T 2
all save one of the lit - tle blades Be-gan ca-ger-ly to re -

B
all save one of the lit - tle blades Be-gan ca-ger-ly to re -

B
all save one of the lit - tle blades Be-gan ca-ger-ly to re -

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Do not use, copy, perform, share, distribute,
upload, rehearse, edit, sell or look at.
Okay, you can look at it.

17

T 1
late The mer-its of their lives. This one stayed a

T 2
late The mer-its of their lives. This one stayed a

B
late The mer-its of their lives. This one stayed a

B
late The mer-its of their lives. This one stayed a

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22 *mp* *slight rit.* *p* *pp* *a tempo* *f*

T 1 small way be - hind, A - shamed. A - shamed. Pres - ent - ly, God

T 2 small way be - hind, A - shamed. A - shamed. Pres - ent - ly, God

B small way be - hind, A - shamed. A - shamed. Pres - ent - ly, God

B small way be - hind, A - shamed. A - shamed. Pres - ent - ly, God

27 *ff* *mp* *slower*

T 1 said, "And what did you do?" The lit - tle blade an - swered,

T 2 said, "And what did you do?" The lit - tle blade an - swered,

B said, "And what did you do?"

B said, "And what did you do?"

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♩ = 108 Lyricaly

32 *mf*

T 1 "Oh my Lord, Me-mo-ry is bit-ter to me, For, if I

T 2 "Oh my Lord, Me-mo-ry is bit-ter to me, For, if I

B "Oh my Lord, Me-mo-ry is bit-ter to me, For, if I *mp*

B "Oh my Lord, Me-mo-ry is bit-ter to me, For, if I

mf

39 *f* Timothy C Takach.com *p*

T 1 did good deeds, I know not of them." I know not of

T 2 did good deeds, I know not of them." I know not of

B did good deeds, I know not of them." I know not of

B did good deeds, I know not of them." I know not of

f *p*

mf *p*

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48 *mf*

T 1 them." if I did good deeds, if I did good deeds, —

T 2 them." if I did good deeds, if I did good deeds, —

B them." if I did good deeds, if I did good deeds, —

B if I did good deeds, if I did good deeds, —

Okay, you can look at it.

57 *mp* TimothyCTakach.com

T 1 I know not if I did good deeds, *mp*

T 2 I know not if I did good deeds, *mp*

B my Lord, my Lord, did good deeds, — *mp*

B my Lord, my Lord, did good deeds, —

Okay, you can look at it.

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ritard -----

65

T 1 *p* *pp*
I know not of them." I know not

T 2 *p* *pp*
I know not of them." I know not

B *pp* *p* *pp*
I know not of them." I know not

B *pp* *p* *pp*
I know not of them." I know not

Okay, you can look at it.

73 $\bullet = 92$ *mf* Timothy C Takach.com

T 1 *mf*
Then God, in all His splen - dor,

T 2 *mf* *mf*
Then God, in all His splen - dor,

B *mf* *mp*
Then God, in all His splen - dor, A -

B *mf* *mp*
Then God, in all His splen - dor, A - rose

Okay, you can look at it.

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78 *ritard* $\bullet = 88$

T 1 *f* A - rose A - rose from His throne. "Oh, *ff* *f*

T 2 *mf* A - rose A - rose A - rose from His throne. "Oh, *f* *ff* *f*

B *f* rose A - rose A - rose from His throne. *ff*

B *f* A - rose A - rose from His throne. *ff*

82 *ritard* *mp* Timothy C Takach.com

T 1 *mf* best lit - tle blade of grass, best lit - tle blade of grass!" *mp*

T 2 *f* best lit - tle blade" He said. "best lit - tle blade of grass!" *mp*

B *f* best lit - tle blade of grass, best lit - tle blade of grass!" *mp*

B *f* best lit - tle blade of grass, best lit - tle blade of grass!" *mp*

An excerpt of "Empty" for TBB, piano, djembe

Empty / Timothy C. Takach

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 9-12, and the second system covers measures 13-16. Each system includes vocal parts for Tenor (T) and Bass (B), a piano accompaniment, and a djembe part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "I want-ed eve-ry-thing to turn out right in the end." for measures 9-12, and "I want-ed to go to heav-en. What -" for measures 13-16. The piano part includes dynamics like *pp* and *mf*. The djembe part is indicated by a double bar line and rhythmic notation at the bottom of the second system.

9
T I want-ed eve-ry-thing to turn out right in the end.
B I want-ed eve-ry-thing to turn out right in the end.
9
Sub-----

13 *mf*
T I want-ed to go to heav-en. What -
B I want-ed to go to heav-en. What - *mf*
13 *pp*
13
Sub-----

The percussion parts here are suggested rhythms for the djembe, but an experienced percussionist should feel free to play beyond what's on the page.

An excerpt of "Empty" for TBB, piano, djembe

Empty / Timothy C. Takach

17

T
8
ev - er I thought — I should lose, — I lost; what - ev - er the

B
8
ev - er I thought — I should lose, — I lost; what - ev - er the

17
mf

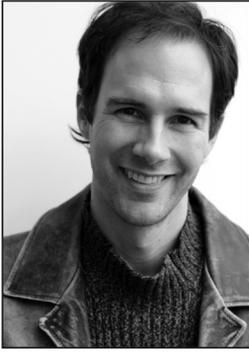
17
sim. until marked

21

T
8
cost, I paid it. Noth - ing — was too much.

B
8
cost, I paid it. Noth - ing — was too much.

21
p



Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach is rapidly gaining momentum in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received a number of commissions from various organizations including the St. Olaf Choir, Cantus, Pavia Winds, the Bowling Green State University Men’s Chorus, The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, the Cherry Creek High School Meistersingers, the New Mexico Gay Men’s Chorus and the Western Michigan University Chorale. His compositions have been heard on NPR and have been recorded by various groups in North America.

The 2007 Texas and the 2009 Florida All-State Choirs performed his piece “The Darkling Thrush,” and his arrangement of “What Child is This” was featured on the 2007 Boston Pops holiday tour. Takach has been awarded grants from the American Composers Forum and Meet the Composer, and yearly ASCAP awards since 2004. Takach received a BA in Music Theory and Composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Selected vocal works for mixed choir by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices	A Depth We Cannot Sound (2011)		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
	A Worshipper and a Man (2010)		SATB a cappella
	All Sisters and Brothers (2012)		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
	As the Sunflower Turns on Her God (2007)		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
	The Darkling Thrush (2004)	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
	From the Regions of Air (2010)		SATB a cappella
	Epitaph (2012)		SATB, viola
	I Leave, She Stays (2011)		SATB a cappella
	Listen to the Apples (2013)		SATB div. a cappella
	Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers (2008)	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
	Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius (2009)		SSATBB a cappella
	One Boy Told Me (2011)		SATB, piano
	Something There is Immortal (2008)		SSATBB a cappella
	Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred) (2013)		SSAATTBB a cappella
	This Alien Landscape (2013)		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (2005) Huron Carol	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella	
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky (2014)		SATB, piano	
Where Beauty Comes From (2010)		SATB, piano	
Treble Voices	And I Saw (2012)		SSAA div. a cappella
	Before We Get Dusty (2010)		SSAA, piano
	Cassiopeia (2013)		SSA a cappella
	Home on the Range (2007) American Folk Song	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble voices, piano
	Queen of the Range (2006)	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
	Serenade (2002)	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
	She Moved Through the Fair (2009) Irish Ballad		SSAA a cappella
	The Streets of Laredo (2007) American Folk Song	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Twenty Questions (2010)		2- part treble, piano	
Men’s Voices	And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (2007)		TTTBB a cappella
	Empty (2012)		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
	Go (2012)		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
	Goodbye, Then (2012)		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
	I Will Howl (2007)		TBB choir, piano or cello
	It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind (2012)		TB, piano
	Luceat Eis (2010)		TTTBB a cappella
	Rough Beast (2013)		TTBB, percussion
	Salve Regina (2012)	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB chorus a cappella
	Things I Didn’t Know I Loved (2001)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
	‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (2006) Huron Carol	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
	Veni Creator Spiritus (1998)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
We Made a Grave For Him (2013)		TTBB a cappella	
What Child is This (2000) Traditional	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TTBB a cappella	
What I Have Done (2003) Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun		TTTBBB a cappella	