

**RICH CAMPBELL**

# **WINTER STARS**

*for SSA Women's Choir*

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## Winter Stars

by Sara Teasdale

I went out at night alone;  
The young blood flowing beyond the sea  
Seemed to have drenched my spirit's wings—  
I bore my sorrow heavily.

But when I lifted up my head  
From shadows shaken on the snow,  
I saw Orion in the east  
Burn steadily as long ago.

From windows in my father's house,  
Dreaming my dreams on winter nights,  
I watched Orion as a girl  
Above another city's lights.

Years go, dreams go, and youth goes too,  
The world's heart breaks beneath its wars,  
All things are changed, save in the east  
The faithful beauty of the stars.

*Source: Flame and Shadow (1920)*  
*This text is in the public domain.*

"Winter Stars" was written by Pulitzer Prize winning American poet Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) and was first published in 1920 in the collection "Flame & Shadow." She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, found acclaim while living in New York City, and became disillusioned in her later years. Perhaps she was writing this poem with WW I in mind; it rings as true today with our current wars. In basic language she addresses universal themes. The poem's optimism doesn't fully resonate until the last verse, indeed the last line. The poem touched me in several ways. The music develops from the melody in the first verse, heard in sixths, in Em, around a pedal tone: the constancy of the heavens. The melody is heard again, but this time simultaneously inverted. When the stars are mentioned, we move from minor to major. In the 3rd verse, about the innocence of childhood, all voices move together into three-part harmony in major keys (with a subtle key shift in the third line). The last verse includes the lyric "All things are changed, save in the east.." It begins with all voices singing the inverted melody in harmony; it goes from E major, to G major, and concludes with the melody un-inverted, in E major.

# WINTER STARS

SARA TEASDALE

RICH CAMPBELL

**Pensively, with an inner yearning**  
(Slowly ♩ = 70) *pp*

Soprano I

I went out at night a - lone; The

Soprano II

Oh\*

Alto

I went out at night a - lone; The

Sop. I

young blood flow - ing be - yond the sea Seemed

Sop. II

Alto

young blood flow - ing be - yond the sea Seemed

\*Soprano II "Oh"-- stagger breathing

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4

Sop. I  
to have drenched my spir-it's wings—I bore my sor-row heav-i - ly. But *p*

Sop. II  
*pp*

Alto  
to have drenched my spir-it's wings—I bore my sor-row heav-i - ly. But *p* Oh

6

Sop. I  
when I lift-ed up my head From shad-ows shak-en on the snow, I

Sop. II

Alto  
when I lift-ed up my head From shad-ows shak-en on the snow, I

8

Sop. I  
saw O - ri - on in the east Burn stead-i - ly as long a - go. From *mp*

Sop. II  
*mp*

Alto  
saw O - ri - on in the east Burn stead-i - ly as long a - go. From *mp*

10

Sop. I  
win-dows in my fa-ther's house, Dream - ing my dreams on win-ter nights, I

Sop. II  
win-dows in my fa-ther's house, Dream - ing my dreams on win-ter nights, I

Alto  
win-dows in my fa-ther's house, Dream - ing my dreams on win-ter nights, I

12

Sop. I  
watched O - ri - on as a girl A - bove an - oth - er cit - y's lights. Years *mf*

Sop. II  
watched O - ri - on as a girl A - bove an - oth - er cit - y's lights. Years *mf*

Alto  
watched O - ri - on as a girl A - bove an - oth - er cit - y's lights. Years *mf*

14

Sop. I  
go, dreams go, and youth goes too, The

Sop. II  
go, dreams go, and youth goes too, The

Alto  
go, dreams go, and youth goes too, The

15

Sop. I *mp*  
world's heart breaks be - neath its wars, All

Sop. II *mp*  
world's heart breaks be - neath its wars, All

Alto *mp*  
world's heart breaks be - neath its wars, All

16

Sop. I *rit. p*  
things are changed, save in the east The

Sop. II *p*  
things are changed, save in the east The

Alto *p*  
things are changed, save in the east The

17

Sop. I *pp*  
faith - ful beau - ty of the stars.

Sop. II *pp*  
faith - ful beau - ty of the stars.

Alto *pp*  
faith - ful beau - ty of the stars.