

RICH CAMPBELL

THE SMALLEST SONG

text:

MARTHA COLLINS

FOR PERUSAL ONLY
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THE SMALLEST SONG

by Martha Collins

For the days that are left the smallest song:
a wish for snow on your parted hair.
The fire is warm but the nights belong
to the days that are left, and the smallest song
could say too much: would the words be wrong
if the wish were right? What do I dare,
for the days that are left? The smallest song?
A wish for snow on your parted hair?
Our fires all warm, our nights all long
as the days that are left? The smallest song
could say so much: it wouldn't be wrong
if the words were right. What do we dare,
for the days that are left? The smallest song.
A wish for snow before parting. There.

from
The Catastrophe of Rainbows
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Special thanks to
The College of St. Rose Chamber Choir, Dr. Michael Levi, director,
for their world premiere, October 24, 2015, at the Massry Center for the Arts, Albany, NY.

THE SMALLEST SONG

MARTHA COLLINS

RICH CAMPBELL

Gently ♩ = 100

p

Soprano
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Alto
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Tenor
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Bass
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

Detailed description: This system contains the first five staves of the score. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time and feature a melody with lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and consists of chords and arpeggiated figures. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and accents. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is visible across the score.

6

S
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

A
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

T
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

B
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

Piano

Slower

Detailed description: This system contains the second five staves of the score, starting at measure 6. The vocal staves continue the melody with lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and arpeggiated figures. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and accents. A tempo change to 'Slower' is indicated above the vocal staves. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is visible across the score.

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2

11 *a tempo*
p

S to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

A to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

T to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

B to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

16 *mp* *mf*

S much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

A much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

T much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

B much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

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21

S words be wrong if the wish were right? *f* , *mf* What do

A words be wrong if the wish were right? *f* ,

T words be wrong if the wish were right? *f* ,

B words be wrong if the wish were right? *f* , *mf* What do I dare, —

25

S I dare, — *mf* What do I dare, *mp* for the days that are left? *f*

A — *mf* What do I dare, *mp* for the days that are left? *f*

T *mf* What do I dare, — *mp* What do I dare, *f* for the days that are left? *f*

B — *mp* What do I dare, — *f* for the days that are left? *f*

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4

30

mf mp mp mp mp

S — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

A — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

T — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

B — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

35

Slower, a tempo p p p p

S fires all warm, our nights all long

A fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

T fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

B fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

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40

p *mp* *mp* *mp*

S as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

A days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

T days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

B days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

45

mf *mf* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

S so much: could say so much: it would-n't be wrong if the words were

A so much: could say so much: it would-n't be wrong if the words were

T so much: could say so much: say so much:

B so much: say so much: say so much: say so much:

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6

50

S
right. *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. *mp*

A
right. *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. *mp*

T
mf it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. if the words were right. *mp*

B
mf it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. if the words were right. *mp*



The piano accompaniment for measures 50-54 features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in both hands at measure 51. The dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to mezzo-piano (mp).

55

S
mf What do we dare, _____ What do we dare, _____ for _____ *f*

A
mf What do we dare, _____ What do we dare, _____ for _____ *f*

T
mf What do we dare, _____ What do we dare, _____ for the _____ *f*

B
mf What do we dare, _____ What do we dare, _____ *f*



The piano accompaniment for measures 55-59 continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords. The dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to forte (f).

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60

S — the days that are left? *mf* The small - est song. —

A — the days that are left? *mf* The small - est song. — The

T days for the days for the days that are left? *f* *mf* The small - est song. —

B for the days that are left? *f* *mf* The small - est

65

S — The small - est small - est song. *p* The small - est song.

A small - est song. The small - est small - est song. *p* The small - est song.

T — The small - est song. The small - est small - est song. *mp* *p* The small - est song.

B song. The small - est song. The small - est small - est song. *mp* *p* The small - est song.

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8

71 *pp* < > *Slower* < > , *pp* < >

S
A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

A
A wish _____ for snow _____ be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

T
A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

B
A wish _____ for snow A be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

pp < > , *pp* < >

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are: 'A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____'. The score includes dynamic markings like *pp* and *Slower*, and phrasing slurs. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY DO NOT' is overlaid on the page.