

RICH CAMPBELL

THE SMALLEST SONG

text:

MARTHA COLLINS

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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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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.

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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 parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time and marked 'Gently' with a tempo of 100. The piano part is in 4/4 time and marked 'p'. The lyrics are: 'For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow'. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and moving lines in both hands.

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 parts continue with the lyrics: 'on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long'. The piano part continues with the accompaniment. A 'Slower' marking is placed above the vocal staves and below the piano staff. The piano part includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the final measures.

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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

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, — 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, for the days that are left? *f*

B — What do I dare, — *mp* 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 musical score for measures 50-54 features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, while the piano part is in grand staff. The lyrics are: "right. it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. if the words were right." Dynamic markings include *mf* and *mp*. There are triplet markings over the first three notes of the vocal lines in measures 50-52.

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, _____

The musical score for measures 55-59 features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, while the piano part is in grand staff. The lyrics are: "What do we dare, _____ What do we dare, _____ for _____". Dynamic markings include *mf* and *f*. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

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60

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

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

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

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

65

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

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

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

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

THE SMALLEST SONG

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*

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