

NAOMI LAVIOLETTE

WINTER SOLSTICE

for SATB Mixed Choir

Naomi LaViolette Choral Work
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WINTER SOLSTICE

*Snow and shadow surround us
Earth is cold and still
Guided only by starlight*

*Days overtaken swiftly by darkness
The trees sleep and the moon hides*

*This Winter Solstice we take the time
To look inside our shadows*

*We're not afraid of our darkness
We're not afraid of the hidden places in our hearts*

*Tears fall as we remember
We write it down, we hold it close
And then we let it burn*

*Watch it turn to light in the fire
Release into the night
As it dies with the Earth we are reborn
We become barren to return to life*

Rest now, and the Earth rests with you

Notes from the composer:

In the winter of 2021, my teenage daughter Lucia guided our family through a Winter Solstice ceremony, and it was incredibly meaningful. I felt overcome with emotion as I remembered a dark and difficult year, but filled with awe and peace as we released our memories into the fire. This ceremony can be celebrated by anyone, regardless of their religious or secular points of view. I hope it brings choirs, families and communities together in an experience of shared reflection and renewal.

Tempo markings are presented with ranges, so that conductors can adjust based on the reverberation of the space, the size of the choir, or however the music moves them. In sections with long phrases my hope is for singers to stagger their breaths, creating continuous flow. Breath marks in parentheses are provided in the score if corporate breaths are preferred.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER - NAOMI LAVIOLETTE



"Naomi LaViolette is among the very finest musicians with whom I've worked during my long career. A superlative pianist and composer/arranger, Naomi is acclaimed for her musicality and is a leading figure in the artistic culture of Portland, Oregon. I am honored to be her colleague and friend."

- Dr. Morten Lauridsen

Recipient, 2007 National Medal of Arts

Recipient, ASCAP Foundation "Life in Music" Award

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Composition, USC Thornton School of Music

Naomi LaViolette's compositions have been performed worldwide in professional, amateur, sacred and scholastic settings. In 2018, her piece "Melancholy Flower," co-composed with Steven Craig Goodwin, was included in Gothic Records release of the *Shadows on the Stars* album by Oregon Repertory Singers, winner of the American Prize. She studied Music Theory and Composition while pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Piano Performance, and her professional work as a choral accompanist and chamber musician since 2001 greatly influences her composing. She is a published composer with Santa Barbara Music Publishing, the composer and arranger for the Oregon Symphony Lullaby Project, and the accompanist for the Oregon Repertory Singers since 2004. Her music for choirs, chamber ensembles, soloists, and orchestras reflect an authentic connection to nature, spirituality and humanity. To inquire about commissioning a work, contact Naomi through her website, www.naomilmusic.com.

Winter Solstice

Naomi LaViolette

Lento (♩ = 65-75)

Soprano
p Snow and sha - dow sur - round us Earth is cold and still

Alto
p Snow and sha - dow sur - round us Earth is cold and still

Tenor
p Snow and sha - dow sur - round us Earth is cold and still

Bass
p Snow and sha - dow sur - round us Earth is cold and still

Piano (rehearsal only)
p

PREVIEW ONLY

Poco più mosso (♩ = 75-85)

S
Guid - ed on - ly by star - light star - light *mp* Days o - ver

A
Guid - ed on - ly by star - light star - light *mp* Days o - ver

T
Guid - ed on - ly by star - light, star - light *mp* Days o - ver

B
Guid - ed on - ly by star - light, star - light *mp* Days o - ver

Piano
p

11 (,) See composer notes about breath marks

S tak - en swift - ly by dark - ness The

A tak - en swift - ly by dark - ness The

T 8 tak - en swift - ly swift - ly by dark - ness The trees sleep

B tak - en swift - ly by dark - ness The trees sleep

PREVIEW ONLY

15 (,) *stringendo* *poco rit.* *espressivo*

S trees sleep and the s This Win - ter

A trees sleep and the s This Win - ter

T 8 and the s This Win - ter

B and the moon nces This Win - ter

15 *espressivo*

19

S Sol - stice we take the time This Win - ter Sol - stice to (,)

A Sol - stice we take the time This Win - ter Sol - stice to

T Sol - stice we take the time Win - ter Sol - stice to

B Sol - stice we take the time Win - ter Sol - stice to

19

19

PREVIEW ONLY

24

S look in - side Our sha - dows our sha - dows (,)

A look in - side Our sha - dows sha - dows (,)

T look in - side in - side sha - dows (,)

B look in - side in - side sha - dows

24

24

29 *poco rit.* (,)

S *mf* sha - dow We're

A sha - dows *mf* sha - dow sha - dow We're

T 8 sha - dows *mf* sha - dow We're

B *mf* sha - dow We're

PREVIEW ONLY

34 *flowing forward in 2* (♩ = 90-100) *cresc.*

S not a - fraid We're

A not a - fraid *cresc.* We're

T 8 not a - fraid our dark - ness

B not a - fraid our dark - ness

34

38 *dim.*
S not a - fraid of the hid - den pla - ces

A not a - fraid of the hid - den pla - ces in our hearts *dim.*

T *cresc.* Not a - fraid hid - den pla - ces in our hearts *dim.*

B *cresc.* Not a - fraid hid - den pla - ces *dim.*

PREVIEW ONLY

42
S Tears fall tears fall We (,)

A *p* As we re - mem - ber We write it down We *cresc.*

T *p* As we re - mem - ber We write it down We *cresc.*

B *p* As we re - mem - ber We wrtie it down We *cresc.*

47 *cresc.*

S hold it close *f* burn

A hold it close and then we let it *f* burn

T hold it close and then we let it *f* burn

B hold it close *f* burn

PREVIEW ONLY

51 *broadly*

S to light

A watch it turn to light in the

T Watch it turn to light in the

B to light

51

51

(divide into 3 equal parts through meas. 63)

56

S
fire Re - lease the night

A
fire Re - lease in - to the night

T
fire Re - lease the night

B
fire Re - lease in - to the night

PREVIEW ONLY

61

S
(,) *dim.* As it dies with the Earth we are re - born

A
dim. As it dies with the Earth we are re - born

T
dim. As it dies with the Earth we are

B
dim. As it dies with the Earth we are

65 *poco rit.*

S bar - ren Bar - ren to re -

A bar - ren to r Bar - ren to re -

T We be - come bar - ren Mmm

B We be - come bar - ren to lie Mmm

65

PREVIEW ONLY

free and gentle (♩ = 50-60)

71

S turn to life *mp*

A turn to life *mp* Rest now

T life *mp* Rest now

B life *mp* Rest now

71 *free and gentle*

79

S *p* Rest now

A Rest now *p* Rest now and the

T Rest now *p* Rest now and the

B Rest now *p* Rest now and the

79

PREVIEW ONLY

87 *poco rit.*

S *pp* rests with you

A Earth rests *pp* rests with you

T Earth rests *pp* rests with you

B Earth rest *pp* rests with you

87