

WILLIAM SUSMAN

Living These Seasons

for
SATB and piano

Susman Music

William Susman
Living These Seasons
from four poems by Sue Susman

The Hot Days of Summer

At night stars sprinkle the darkness and
the moon with the sky in her arms
smiles gently and glows.
Everything around her is light.

Below all is green and silent.
Only the sound of crickets singing the night to sleep.

And we dream that a dragon stands at the window looking in
breathing in darkness
breathing out fire.
Even the wind feels like fire
breathing the dragon's breath.

And the moon holds the sky in her arms
in her arms, in her arms,
in her arms.

Against an Autumn Sky

The leaves are returning to earth now
little pieces of red and yellow
like tiny sails floating in air, but
the tree doesn't move.
It is anchored, stuck, fixed in its place.
And the leaves fall, sails puffing outward, wind blowing harder.
They are dying again now, becoming thin and brown,
coming apart as they have before
twisting and lonely against an autumn sky.

This Winter Light

So cold, this winter light
even the sky is white
like breath exhaled, the sleeping breath of a whole city
turning into steam in the frozen air
becoming this white blanket that covers the ground.

Earth will rest underneath covered like a sleeping child.
And in the Spring, when the ice flows,
She will awaken, turning,
always turning, into something better, into something new.

Let my prayer for love be a lullaby that comforts more than me.
Make my song as hopeful as birds that sing, even now,
when there is so little light.

Until the Spring Trees Come Back

The gray sky wants to darken the daylight,
pulling down the darkness
like a dirty window that is always closed.
Earth is covered with snow,
the frozen ground hard as rock.

Then the sky opens and rain melts the ice,
until the spring trees come back,
their fullness even richer.
Flowers are growing,
a full palette of color in light.
Even the clouds look beautiful now,
white and floating,
changing in air.

Living These Seasons

poems by Sue Susman

music by William Susman

The Hot Days of Summer

Gently shimmering $\text{♩} = 54$

Soprano *p* At night stars

Alto *p* At night stars

Tenor *p* At night

Bass *p* At night

Piano *p*

Lea. * Lea. * Lea. *

4

sprink - le the dark - - - ness and

sprink - le the dark - - - ness

stars sprink - le the dark - - - ness

stars sprink - le the dark - - -

Lea. * Lea. * Lea. *

7

the moon _____ with the
and the moon _____

8

ness

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for measures 7, 8, and 9. The first staff (Soprano) has lyrics 'the moon _____ with the'. The second staff (Alto) has lyrics 'and the moon _____'. The third staff (Tenor) and fourth staff (Bass) are empty. A measure rest '8' is placed below the third staff.

Lead * Lead * Lead *

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 7, 8, and 9. It features a right-hand melody of eighth notes and a left-hand accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The word 'Lead' is written below the first staff, followed by an asterisk, then 'Lead' with an asterisk, and finally 'Lead' with an asterisk.

10

sky in her arms _____
with the sky in her

8

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for measures 10, 11, and 12. The first staff (Soprano) has lyrics 'sky in her arms _____'. The second staff (Alto) has lyrics 'with the sky in her'. The third staff (Tenor) and fourth staff (Bass) are empty. A measure rest '8' is placed below the third staff.

Lead * Lead * Lead *

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 10, 11, and 12. It features a right-hand melody of eighth notes and a left-hand accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The word 'Lead' is written below the first staff, followed by an asterisk, then 'Lead' with an asterisk, and finally 'Lead' with an asterisk.

13

smi - les gent - ly _____ and
 arms smi - les gent - ly _____ and
 smi - les gent - ly _____ and
 smi - les gent - ly _____ and

Lead * Lead * Lead *

16

glows.
 glows.
 glows. Ev - ery - thing a -
 glows. Ev - ery - thing a - round her

Lead * Lead * Lead *

19

mf Be - low all is green

mf Be - low all is green

mf round her is light. Be - low all is green and si -

mf is light. Be - low all is green and si -

mf

Led. * Led. * Led. * Led. * Led. *

25

p and si - lent. On - ly the sound

p and si - lent. On - ly the sound

p lent. On - ly

p lent. On - ly

let ring *p*

Led. * Led. * Led. * Led. *

31

of crick - ets sing - ing the night to sleep.
 of crick - ets sing - ing the night to sleep.
 the sound of crick - ets sing - ing the
 the sound of crick - ets sing - ing the

ped. ped. * ped.

35

night to sleep. And we dream.
 night to sleep. And we dream.
 night to sleep. And we dream.
 night to sleep. And we dream.

(♩. = ♩) p p p p
 * ped. * ped.

39

— that a dra - gon stands at the win - dow

— that a dra - gon stands at the win - dow

8 — that a dra - gon stands at the win - dow

— that a dra - gon stands at the win - dow

* *And.*

* *And.*

43

— look - ing in _____ breathing in dark - ness _____

— look - ing in _____ breathing in dark - ness _____

8 — look - ing in _____

— look - ing in _____

* *And.*

* *And.*

47

e - ven the wind feels like fi - - - re

e - ven the wind feels like fi - - - re

breath-ing out fire. breath-ing

breath-ing out fire. breath-ing

* *Cresc.* * *Cresc.*

51

p And the moon

p And the moon

p the dra - gon's breath. holds the

p the dra - gon's breath. holds the

* *Cresc.* * *Cresc.*

55

in her arms in her arms, sky in her arms in her arms

* Lea * Lea *

60

in her arms. in her arms. arms, arms. arms, arms.

Lea * Lea * Lea * Lea * Lea *

64

let ring

Against an Autumn Sky

Floating in air ♩ = 84

p
The trees are re - - - turn - ing to

p
The trees are re - - - turn - ing to

p
The trees are re - turn - ing to earth now

p
The trees are re - turn - ing to earth now

6

— earth now lit-tle pie - ces of red

— earth now lit-tle pie - ces of red

lit-tle pie - ces of red

lit-tle pie - ces of red

* Lea * Lea *

11

and yel - low like ti-ny sails

and yel - low like ti-ny sails

and yel - low like ti-ny sails

and yel - low like ti-ny sails

Lea * Lea * Lea * Lea

16

float - ing in air, but the

float - ing in air, but the

but the

but the

* Leo. * Leo. *

21

mf It is anchored, fixed

mf It is anchored, fixed

mf tree does - n't move. stuck, fixed

mf tree does - n't move. stuck, fixed

mf Leo. * Leo. * Leo.

27

in its place. And the leaves fall,

in its place. And the leaves fall,

in its place. And the leaves fall,

in its place. And the leaves fall,

p

* *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

33

p sails puf - fing out - ward,

p sails puf - fing out - ward,

p sails puf - fing out - ward,

p sails puf - fing out - ward,

p

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

38

wind blowing harder. They are _

wind blowing harder. They are _

wind blowing harder. They are _

wind blowing harder. They are _

And. * *And.* * *And.*

42

_ dy - ing a - gain now, be - com - ing thin and brown,

_ dy - ing a - gain now, _____

dy - ing a - gain now, _____ *p* com - ing

dy - ing a - gain now, _____ *p* com - ing

p

* *And.* * *And.*

46 *p*

com - ing a - part _____ as they have be - fore twist - ing and lone -

com - ing a - part _____ as they have be - fore twist - ing

a - part _____ as they have be - fore _____

a - part _____ as they have be - fore _____

rit. poco a poco

* *leg.*

51

ly _____ a - gainst an au - tumn sky. _____

and lone - ly _____ a - gainst an au - tumn sky. _____

twist - ing and lone - ly _____ a - gainst an au - tumn sky. _____

_____ twist - ing and lone - ly a - gainst an au - tumn sky. _____

let ring

* *leg.* * *leg.* * *leg.*

8

like breath ex - haled, the
 the sky is white like breath ex - haled,
 like breath ex - haled,
 the sky is white like breath ex - haled

Led. * *Led.* *

13

sleep-ing breath of a whole ci - ty turn-ing in - to
 whole turn-ing in - to steam
 whole turn-ing in - to steam in the fro - zen
 whole turn-ing in - to steam in the fro - zen air

Led. * *Led.* * *Led.* * *Led.* *

17 *div.*

steam in the fro - zen air

in the fro - zen air

air

* Lea. * Lea. * Lea. * Lea.

20 *unis. p*

be - com - ing

p this white blank - et

p that co - vers

p the ground.

* Lea. * Lea. * Lea. *

24

Earth will rest _____ sleep-ing child.
 un-der - neath _____
 Earth will rest _____
 cov-ered like a sleep-ing child.

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

28

And in the Spring, _____ when the ice flows, _____
 And in the Spring, _____ when the ice flows, _____
 And in the Spring, _____ when the ice flows, _____
 And in the Spring, _____ when the ice flows, _____

Ped. * *Ped.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

32

She will a - wa - ken, turn - ing,

She will a - wa - ken, turn - ing,

She will a - wa - ken, turn - ing,

She will a - wa - ken, turn - ing,

p *f* *p* *f*

35

al - ways turn - ing, in - to some - thing bet - ter, — al - ways turn - ing, in - to

al - ways turn - ing, in - to some - thing bet - ter, — al - ways

al - ways turn - ing, in - to some - thing bet - ter, —

al - ways turn - ing, in - to some - thing bet - ter, —

p

38

some-thing bet-ter, _____ in - to some-thing new. _____

turn - ing in - to some-thing bet-ter, _____ in - to some-thing new. _____

_____ in - to some-thing new. _____

_____ in - to some-thing new. _____

* *Ped.* *

42

cresc. *p* Let my prayer for love be a lul - la - by _____

cresc. *p* Let my prayer for love that _____

cresc. Let my prayer for _____ love _____

cresc. Let my prayer for _____ love _____

cresc. *p* *Ped.* *

47

as birds that
com-forts more than me. as birds that sing,
Make my song as hope-ful as birds that sing,
as birds that sing,
let ringing fade

* Lea

50

sing, e-ven now, when there is so lit-tle light.
e-ven now, when there is so lit-tle light.
e-ven now, when there is so lit-tle light.
e-ven now, when there is so lit-tle light.

*

Lea

*

Lea

*

Lea

rit.

55

rit.

*

Until the Spring Trees Come Back

$\text{♩} = 66$

p

mf

wants to dark -

The gray sky _____

p

sim.

pedal lightly

6

p

pull - ing down the dark - ness

the day - light,

en

11

p

the

p

Earth is co-vered with snow,

p

that is al-ways closed.

p

like a dir-ty win-dow

(pedal lightly)

24

rain melts the ice, un - til the

rain melts the ice, un - til the

un - til the

27

spring trees come back, their full - ness

spring trees come back, their full - ness

spring trees come back, their full - ness

their full - ness

30

e - ven rich - er. Flow - ers are grow -
 e - ven rich - er. Flow - ers are grow -
 e - ven rich - er.
 e - ven rich - er.

The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand part with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

33

ing, a full pal - - - - - lette
 ing, a full pal - - - - - lette
 - - - - -
 - - - - -

The piano accompaniment continues with similar eighth-note patterns in both hands.

36

of co - - - - - lor in

of co - - - - - lor in

8

39

light.

light.

p E - ven the clouds look

p E - ven the clouds look

8

42

beau - ti - ful now, _____

beau - ti - ful now, _____

45 *p*

rit. -----

white _____ and float - ing chang - ing in air. _____ *niente*

white _____ and float - ing _____ chang - ing in air. _____ *niente*

_____ chang - ing _____ in air. _____ *pp* *niente*

_____ chang - ing in air. _____ *pp* *niente*

rit. -----

let ring