

Performance Notes

“Haze” is a short piece for SATB choir and piano, adapting text by Henry David Thoreau. The poem uses vivid language to describe haze and smoke, possibly in the aftermath of war, with the final stanza evoking the image of a phoenix rising from the ashes. The music is a gentle lullaby, featuring simple vocal lines floating over shifting harmonies in the piano. “Haze” is the third movement of a larger work, *Songs of Renewal*, which was commissioned by Da Camera Singers (Edmonton, Canada) to celebrate their 60th anniversary in 2022.

—Stuart Beatch

TEXT

Woof of the sun, ethereal gauze,
Woven of Nature’s richest stuffs,
Visible heat, air-water, and dry sea,
Last conquest of the eye;
Toil of the day displayed, sun-dust,
Aerial surf upon the shores of earth,
Ethereal estuary, frith of light,
Breakers of air, billows of heat,
Fine summer spray on inland seas;
Bird of the sun, transparent-winged
Owlet of noon, soft-pinioned,
From hearth or stubble rising without song;
Establish thy serenity o’er the fields.

—Henry David Thoreau (1817–1867)

Stuart Beatch (b. 1991)

For biographical information visit:
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Commissioned by Da Camera Singers, Laura Hawley, artistic director,
in celebration of their 60th anniversary

Haze

(from *Songs of Renewal*)
for SATB Chorus and Piano

Henry David Thoreau
(1817–1862)

Stuart Beatch
(SOCAN)

Sweetly, with motion (♩ = 60)

Piano

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, marked *mp*. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand starts with a whole note chord, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note bass line. The piece ends with a *simile* marking.

3 Alto (opt. Solo) *mp*

Woof of the sun, e - the - real gauze, wo - ven of Na - ture's rich - est

The vocal line for the Alto (opt. Solo) part begins at measure 3. The lyrics are "Woof of the sun, e - the - real gauze, wo - ven of Na - ture's rich - est". The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody and bass line as the introduction.

6 *mf* 3

stuffs, vis - i - ble heat, air - wa - ter, and dry sea,

The vocal line continues at measure 6. The lyrics are "stuffs, vis - i - ble heat, air - wa - ter, and dry sea,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody and bass line, with a *mf* marking at measure 6.

9

S *mp* Toil of the day dis-played, sun-

(opt. Solo) A last con-quest_ of the eye; (All) *mp* Toil of the day dis-played, sun-

T *mp* Toil of the day dis-played, sun-

B *mp* Toil of the day dis-played, sun-

p

12

dust, aer - i - al surf up - on the shores_ of earth, *mf*

dust, aer - i - al surf up - on the shores_ of earth, e -

dust, aer - i - al surf up - on the shores_ of earth,

dust, aer - i - al surf up - on the shores_ of earth,

15 *mf*

e - the-re-al es - tu - ar - y, frith of

the-re-al es - tu - ar - y, frith of

p Oo *mp* frith of

p Oo *mp* frith of

mf

18 *f*

light, break-ers of air, bil - lows of

light, break-ers of air, bil - lows of

light, break-ers of air,

light, break-ers of air,

f

20

heat, fine sum - mer spray on in - land

heat, fine sum - mer spray on in - land

bil - lows of heat, fine sum - mer spray in - land

bil - lows of heat, fine sum - mer spray in - land

22

seas; Hm

seas; Bird of the sun, trans - par - ent wing - ed

seas; Hm Oh

seas; Hm

*If Alto part is performed as a solo, then Sopranos sing S1 and Alto section sings S2.

25

owl - et of noon, soft - pin - ioned, from

Hm Oh

27 (*p*)

Ah

hearth or stub - ble ris - ing with - out song;

(*p*) Ah

(*p*) Ah

mf

29 *poco rall.*

Hmm.

es - tab - lish thy se - ren - i - ty o'er the

pp

Hmm.

Hmm.

mp

poco rall.

31 *a tempo* *rit.*

fields.

a tempo *rit.*

p *dim.* *pp*