

### Composer's Notes

It was a genuine gift to be asked to write this piece for the wedding of Barney, my brother, to his wife, Libby, in 2022. The wedding took place in Cambridge just after Christmas and was a moving, joyous, and beautiful occasion. The choir was wonderful—formed of singers from VOCES8, Apollo5 and other UK ensembles, with Eamonn Dougan and Robert Hollingworth conducting. With other premieres written for the wedding by Taylor Scott Davis and Eric Whitacre, and the baptism of my nephew, Orlando also taking place in the ceremony, it was an event that will live long in our memories.

This piece is very much written as a “miniature,” a moment for thought, reflection, and beauty. I presented Barney and Libby with a number of choices for the text and was thrilled when they chose this beautiful poem by Hafiz. As you sing the piece, you can look both for the moments of space and calm, and for the moments where the music can flow and soar. In particular, I'd encourage you to give wings to the music in bar 34, before finishing with that most magical and important of words: “Love.”

—Paul Smith,  
July 2023

### Text

Let us be like two falling stars in the day sky.  
Let no one know of our sublime beauty  
as we hold hands with God.  
And burn into a sacred existence that defies,  
that surpasses every description of ecstasy  
and Love.

—Hafiz (ca. 1320–1389)  
*tr.* Daniel Ladinsky

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*For Barney and Libby, on their wedding day*

# The Day Sky

*for SATB Chorus unaccompanied*

Hafiz (*ca.* 1325–1390)Daniel Ladinsky, *tr.*

Paul Smith

**With love and conviction** ♩ = 50

**Soprano** *mp* *warmer* *mf*  
Let us, let us, be like two fall - ing

**Alto** *mp* *warmer* *mf*  
Let us, let us, be like fall -

**Tenor** *mp* *warmer* *mf*  
Let us, let us, be like fall -

**Bass** *mp* *warmer* *mf*  
Let us, let us, be like fall -

**With love and conviction** ♩ = 50

**Keyboard** *for rehearsal only*

Text: "The Day Sky," from the Penguin publication *A Year With Hafiz: Daily Contemplations*. © Daniel Ladinsky, 2011.  
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The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Day After Tomorrow'. It includes vocal parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, along with a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'warm in the day sky, soft in the day stars, in the day sky, in the day'. The score is marked with 'warm' and 'soft' dynamics. A large 'Copyright Review' watermark is visible across the page.

warm soft

in the day sky, in the day

warm soft

in the day sky, in the day

warm soft

stars, in the day sky, in the day

warm soft

in the day sky, in the day

17 *mf* mysterious

sky. Let no one know of our sub - lime beau - ty

*mf* mysterious

sky. Let no one know of our sub - lime beau - ty

*mf* mysterious

8 sky. Let no one know of our sub - lime beau - ty

*mf* mysterious

sky. Let no one know of our sub - lime beau - ty

22 *mp*

as we hold hands with God, with God,

*mp*

as we hold hands with God, with God,

*mp*

8 as we hold hands with God, with God,

*mp*

as we hold hands with God, with God,

27

*p* *mf*

God. sa - cred

*p* *mf*

God. sa - cred

*p* *mf*

8 God. in - to a sa - cred

*p* *mp with warmth* *mf*

God. And burn, sa - cred

32

*cresc. poco a poco* *agile, soaring*

ex - is - tence that de - fies, that sur -

*cresc. poco a poco* *agile, soaring*

ex - is - tence that de - fies, that sur -

*cresc. poco a poco* *agile, soaring*

8 ex - is - tence that de - fies, that sur -

*cresc. poco a poco* *agile, soaring*

ex - is - tence that de - fies, that sur -

35 *poco accel.*

pass - es ev' - ry de - scrip - tion of ec - sta - sy

pass - es ev' - ry de - scrip - tion of ec - sta - sy

pass - es ev' - ry de - scrip - tion of ec - sta - sy

pass - es ev' - ry de - scrip - tion of ec - sta - sy

*poco accel.*

38 *a tempo* ***f*** affirming ***mp*** magical ***f*** joyful

and Love, and Love, and Love.

***f*** affirming ***mp*** magical ***f*** joyful

and Love, and Love, and Love.

***f*** affirming ***mp*** magical ***f*** joyful

and Love, and Love, and Love.

***f*** affirming ***mp*** magical ***f*** joyful

and Love, and Love, and Love.

*a tempo*