

THE SWING  
Busselberg

SA, accompanied

WLG159

# THE SWING

from *A Child's Garden of Verses*

SA with Four-Hand Piano



## LYNNE GACKLE Choral Series

Choral Artistry for the Developing Singer

Music by  
**Paul Busselberg**

Text by  
**Robert Louis Stevenson**



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## Five Songs from *A Child's Garden of Verses*

- I. The Swing
- II. The Wind
- III. Where Go the Boats?
- IV. Looking Forward
- V. Singing

### About the Work

I had rediscovered Robert Louis Stevenson's collection *A Child's Garden of Verses* when I was looking for inspiration to compose a cycle of songs for the Houston Independent School District Honor Choir. Many of these poems had become familiar to me throughout my life, and I was struck, again, by their breadth in capturing facets of childhood: they are playful and poignant; they explore youthful imagination; they express longing, loss, and loneliness. Many are reminders that children grow up, and that we take our memories with us into adulthood. In that sense, adults as well as children can effectively express these songs.

The set opens with *The Swing*, where rising and falling melodic lines and airy accompaniment capture the exhilaration and freedom found in swinging. The buildup at the end should imitate a carefree, leaping dismount!

It is not entirely coincidental that each of the five poems I chose to set bears a resemblance to each of my own children. Consequently, *The Swing*, with its good-humored inquisitiveness is written for Caroline; *The Wind*, with its broad drama and poignant expression is for Camilla; *Where Go the Boats?* is for Louisa, for deep thoughts and introspective reflection; *Looking Forward* is for William, for good humor and large stature; and *Singing* is for Samuel, for pure joy and playfulness.

These songs were intended as a set of five, but they also work well individually. For a shorter version of the whole, songs 1, 3, and 5 can be performed effectively as a set.

### The Swing

from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885)

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
River and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside--

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown--  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

-Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

### About the Composer

Paul Busselberg (b. 1969) is director of choral activities and head of the vocal area at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas; he also is founder and artistic director of CONSONO Houston. Many of his compositions are written for these ensembles, and his work has been performed at regional and national choral festivals. He holds degrees from Rice University (Doctor of Musical Arts), the Eastman School of Music (Master of Music with Performer's Certificate), and Brigham Young University (Bachelor of Music).

Duration: Approx. 1:15

# I. The Swing

from *A Child's Garden of Verses*  
SA and Four-Hand Piano\*

Text by  
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1850-1894)

Music by  
PAUL BUSSELBERG (b. 1969)

**Flowing** (♩ = 100)

**Primo**

**Secondo**

*with pedal*

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

**S**  
**A**

How do you like to go up in a swing, Up in the air so blue? \_\_\_\_\_

\*For a piano-only score, email [info@waltonmusic.com](mailto:info@waltonmusic.com)

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Oh, I do think it the pleas-ant - est thing Ev - er a child can do!\_\_\_\_\_

11

Up in the air\_\_ and o - ver the wall, Till I can see\_\_ so wide,\_\_\_\_\_

13

S  
Riv - er and trees\_\_ and cat - tle and all O - ver the coun - try -

A  
Riv - er and trees\_\_ and cat - tle and all O - ver the coun - try -

I

II

15

side—

side—

18 *mp*

Till I look down on the gar - den green, Down on the roof\_ so brown—

*mp*

Till I look down on the gar - den green, Down on the roof\_ so brown—

*mp*

*cresc.*

20 Up in the air I go, Up in the, Up in the air I go

Up in the air I go, Up in the air I go

*cresc.*

fly-ing a-gain, fly-ing a - gain, Up I go

*cresc.*

22

fly - ing a - gain, Up in the air and down!

fly - ing a - gain, Up in the air and down!

24

*mp* up in a

*mp* How do you like to go,

*mp*

27 *cresc.*

swing, up in a swing, up in a, up in a,

*cresc.*

How do you like to go, How do you like to go, How do you like to go,

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

29

up in a, up in a, up in a, *f* swing!

How do you like to go, How do you like to go, *f* swing!

How do you like to go, How do you, swing!

*f*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*



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