

SINGING
Busselberg

SA, accompanied

WLG161

SINGING

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.

Full-throated, exuberant, and joyful *Singing*—whether by birds, sailors, or children all over the world—is celebrated in the last song. The festival-extravaganza accompaniment should help accelerate the piece to a rousing finish.

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.

Singing

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

Of speckled eggs the birdie sings
 And nests among the trees;
The sailor sings of ropes and things
 In ships upon the seas.

The children sing in far Japan,
 The children sing in Spain;
The organ with the organ man
 Is singing in the rain.

-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

V. Singing

from *A Child's Garden of Verses*

SA divisi and Four-Hand Piano*

Text by
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1850-1894)

Music by
PAUL BUSSELBERG (b. 1969)

Lively (♩ = 128 - 136)

Primo

Secondo

4

f

mf

mf

*For a piano-only score, email info@waltonmusic.com

7 *mf* **A**

S
A

Of speck-led eggs the bird - ie sings _____ And

I

II

10

_____ The

_____ nests a - mong the trees; _____

I

II

12

sail - or sings of ropes and things _____ In ships up-on the seas. _____

15

_____ The child-ren sing in far Ja-pan, _____ The _____

18

child-ren sing in Spain; _____ The or-gan with the or-gan man _____

21

Is sing - ing in the rain. _____

23

The child - ren sing in far Ja - pan, _____

25

_____ The child - ren sing in Spain; _____ The

28

or - gan with the or - gan man Is sing - ing in the rain.

31

B

S Of

A Of

(Bring out the melody)

I

II

33

speck - led eggs the bird - ie sings _____ And

speck - led eggs the bird - ie sings _____ And

The musical score for measures 33-34 is written for voice and piano. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) sing the lyrics "speck - led eggs the bird - ie sings" followed by a long note and then "And". The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a melody in the right hand with various ornaments and slurs.

35

_____ nests a - mong the trees; _____ The

_____ nests a - mong the trees; _____ The

The musical score for measures 35-36 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts sing "nests a - mong the trees;" followed by a long note and then "The". The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic and melodic patterns as in the previous measures.

37

sail - or sings of ropes and things In ships up-on the seas.

sail - or sings of ropes and things In ships up-on the seas.

39

The child-ren sing in far Ja-pan, The

The child-ren sing in far Ja-pan, The

42

child-ren sing in Spain; _____ The or-gan with the or-gan man ____

child-ren sing in Spain; _____ The or-gan with the or-gan man ____

45

Is sing - ing in the rain. _____

Is sing - ing in the rain. _____

47

Musical score for measures 47-48. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) sing the lyrics "The child - ren sing in far Ja-pan, _____". The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes in both the right and left hands, creating a rapid, flowing accompaniment.

The child - ren sing in far Ja-pan, _____

The child - ren sing in far Ja-pan, _____

49

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) sing the lyrics "The child - ren sing in Spain; _____ The". The piano accompaniment continues with a complex texture of beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes, maintaining the rapid, flowing accompaniment.

The child - ren sing in Spain; _____ The

The child - ren sing in Spain; _____ The

52

or - gan with the or - gan man _____ Is sing - ing in the rain. _____

or - gan with the or - gan man _____ Is sing - ing in the rain. _____

55

f C

La la la la la la la, _____ La

La la la la la la la, _____

61

The musical score is written for a vocal ensemble and piano. It consists of five systems of staves. The first system has two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) with lyrics 'La la la la la la, la la la la la'. The second system continues the vocal parts with lyrics 'la la la, La la la la la la, la la la la la'. The third system shows the piano accompaniment with chords and single notes, including dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*. The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment with a more complex rhythmic pattern. The fifth system shows the piano accompaniment with a final chord and a fermata.

La la la la la la, la la la la la

la la la, La la la la la la, la la la la la

mf *f*

64

la!

la!

66

ff

La la la la la la, *la* la!

ff

La la la *la* la *la* *la*, *la* la!

sfz

sfz

Other Works for Treble Choir

A Breath of Kindness

Lane Johnson
SSAA • WW1597

Illuminations

Daniel J. Hall
SSAA • WLG158

Le Colibri

Chausson/arr. Mari Esabel Valverde
SSA • WLG156

Les elephants savent

Ivo Antognini
SA • WW1629

Les Papillons

Chausson/arr. Mari Esabel Valverde
SSA • WLG157

My November Guest

James Baas
SSA • WLG153

Pardon j'ai pas bien compris

Ivo Antognini
SA • WW1631

Regarde si c'est vrai

Ivo Antognini
SA • WW1630

Roulez jeunes gens roulez

arr. Joseph Gregorio
SSAA • WW1617

Shady Grove

arr. Tom Shelton
SSAA • WLG155