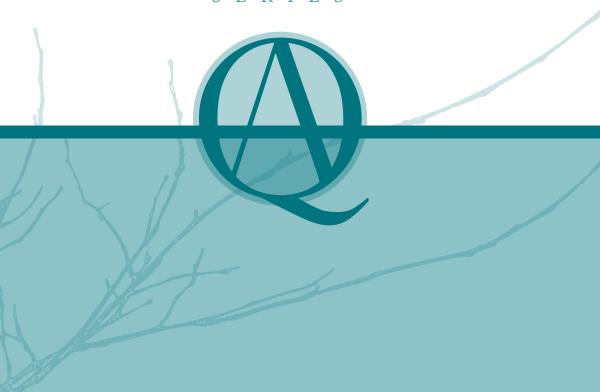
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# BE FOR ME THE EARTH

Nathan Jones

A M A N D A QUIST C H O R A L S E R I E S



#### **About the Work**

Few connections are as lasting as those made in the community of a choir. I had the opportunity to sing with Amanda Quist during the summer of 2009, and I found in her a kindred musical spirit. As a composer, I have always sought to foster these relationships and got an opportunity to work with Amanda when she accepted a position at Westminster Choir College.

I wrote *Be for me the earth*, to celebrate Amanda's first year at Westminster. Sara Teasdale's beautiful and lyrical poetry often speaks of emotions in all-consuming metaphors. This poem is no exception, and I set it in a melodic and lush texture highlighting the best parts of every vocal section. The conductor should take note of punctuation when making decisions regarding breathing and pacing and perform the piece with flexibility and expression.

-Nathan Jones

#### Be for me the earth

I am the still rain falling, Too tired for singing mirth – Oh, be the green fields calling, Oh, be for me the earth!

I am the brown bird pining
To leave the nest and fly —
Oh, be the fresh cloud shining,
Oh, be for me the sky!

-Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

#### **About the Composer**

Oklahoman Nathan Jones is a composer of art music published by Walton Music, GIA Publications, Southern Music Company, and G. Schirmer. A devoted admirer of the beauty and deep emotional connection of the human voice, Nathan enjoys working with poetry. His choral music has been performed in Europe, Southeast Asia, and throughout the United States.

The American Record Guide has described his music as a "...feast of succulent modern harmonies." Frequently commissioned by choirs and wind ensembles of all abilities, Nathan's style is earnest, melodic, and defined by elegant simplicity. His choral work, *I would live in your love*, was recorded by The Westminster Choir under the direction of Joe Miller and is commercially available.

Duration: Approx. 3:30

## Be for me the earth

### SSATBB, unaccompanied

SARA TEASDALE (1884-1933)

NATHAN JONES (b. 1983)

