



Standing on the Shoulders

*(Of Someone Who Only
Imagined Me)*

WORDS BY

**Lanny Cotler, Steve Cotler,
Doug Cotler, and Lord Byron**

MUSIC BY

Z. Randall Stroope

Also available:

Downloadable Accompaniment MP3
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About this work

“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will someday give shade to a person they will never meet.”

The title of the work comes from the extended metaphor, “Standing on the shoulders of giants,” made famous by the physicist, astronomer, alchemist, and theologian Sir Isaac Newton in a 1675 letter. “Giants” – be they great innovators like Thomas Edison or Steve Jobs, or great leaders such as Indira Gandhi or Winston Churchill, or amazing teachers, parents, or coaches, did not come from a vacuum. They (and all of us) build from prior work, discoveries, technologies, and acts of kindness toward humanity. Even the most innovative ideas come from somewhere – from an experience, from some comment or prior discovery in that or another field. No matter how unique an idea, there are people whose “shoulders” the creator stood on to make it possible. The fact that we are all connected in some way does not make us less individually important. In fact, it means that we are part of a wonderful life chain and everything that we do matters to someone who is somewhere around us. Our life is significant even to those whom we will never meet.

The text below represents excerpts from two sources. One is from the poetry of Lanny, Steve, and Doug Cotler (first three stanzas) and the remainder is from Lord Byron (b. 1778) – a flamboyant and notorious English Romantic poet.

*Years ago, they crossed the sea,
And made a life that's come to me.
I'm standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before.*

*So in the garden I'll plant a seed,
A tree of life for you to read.
The fruit will ripen in the sun.
The words will sound when I am gone.*

*...
In the garden there's a tree
Planted by someone who only imagined me.
What love! What vision!
I marvel at the gift.*

*Be the rainbow in the storms of life,
The ev'ning beam that smiles the clouds away.
And tints tomorrow with prophetic ray.
Sorrows disappear, courage is reborn.*

About the composer

Z. Randall Stroope is an American composer and conductor. His composition teachers were Normand Lockwood and Cecil Effinger, both students of Nadia Boulanger, the famous French teacher and student of Gabriel Fauré. Randall studied conducting with Margaret Hillis, chorusmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He is the artistic director of two international summer music festivals, and guest conducts about 25 concerts a year in the United States and Europe. Randall has a home and studio on Merritt Island, Florida and in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Definitive recordings of his music can be heard on his web site (www.zrstroope.com), Spotify and YouTube.

Sample

Standing on the Shoulders

(Of Someone Who Only Imagined Me)

SATB and Piano

Words by
**Doug Cotler, Lanny Cotler,
 Steve Cotler and Lord Byron (1788–1824)**

Music by
Z. Randall Stroepe

Mystical ♩ = 72

The musical score is written for SATB voices and piano. It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked 'Mystical' and '♩ = 72'. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both in G major. The vocal parts enter at measure 4. The lyrics are: 'In the gar - den I'll — plant a seed, A tree of life for — you to read. The fruit will rip - en'. The score includes dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the piano introduction and the first vocal entry, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the second vocal entry. The tempo/mood is indicated as 'not rushed'.

Duration: approx. 3:30

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10 SA
in the sun.

TB *mf*
The words will sound when I am

13 *f* expansive
Be the rain - bow in the —
gone. Rain-bow in the —

15
storms of life. The ev' - ning beam that smiles the clouds a -

26 *mf* ⁷

What

tree Plant-ed by some - one — who on-ly im - ag - ined me.

29

love! — What vi - sion! Stand - ing on the

mf

Stand - ing on the

32

shoul - ders of — one be -

34 S
fore. O

A
fore. O

T
fore. O

B
fore. O

37
O O
O O
O O

40

43

SA

mp

In the gar - den—

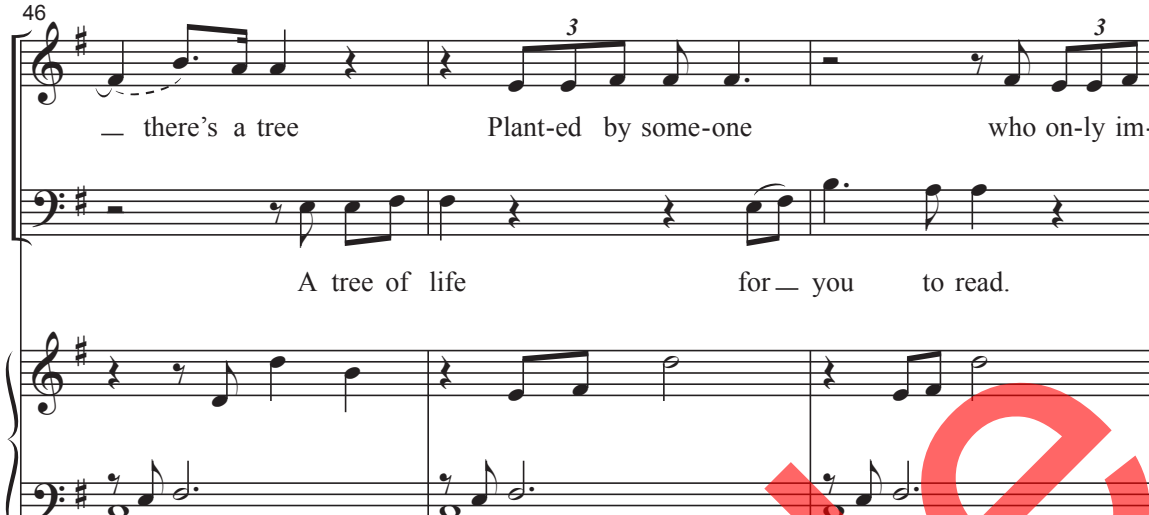
TB

mp

In the gar - den I'll— plant a seed,

mp

46



— there's a tree Plant-ed by some-one who on-ly im-
A tree of life for — you to read.

49



ag - ined me.

52



Be the rain - bow in — the —
Rain - bow in the —

54

storms of life. The ev' - ning beam that smiles the clouds a -

56

way, And tints to - mor-row with pro - phe - tic ray.

59

mf Sor - rows dis - ap - pear, and *f* cour-age is re - born.
mf *f*

And cour-age is re - born.

mf *f*

61

rit.

O _____ Sor-rows dis - ap - pear,

O _____ Sor-rows dis - ap - pear,

rit.



64

a tempo

cour-age is re - born!

a tempo

