

RICH CAMPBELL

THE SMALLEST SONG

for SATB a cappella choir

text by Martha Collins

THE SMALLEST SONG

by Martha Collins

For the days that are left the smallest song:
a wish for snow on your parted hair.
The fire is warm but the nights belong
to the days that are left, and the smallest song
could say too much: would the words be wrong
if the wish were right? What do I dare,
for the days that are left? The smallest song?
A wish for snow on your parted hair?
Our fires all warm, our nights all long
as the days that are left? The smallest song
could say so much: it wouldn't be wrong
if the words were right. What do we dare,
for the days that are left? The smallest song.
A wish for snow before parting. There.

from
The Catastrophe of Rainbows
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Special thanks to
The College of St. Rose Chamber Choir, Dr. Michael Levi, director,
for their world premiere, October 24, 2015, at the Massry Center for the Arts, Albany, NY.

THE SMALLEST SONG

MARTHA COLLINS

RICH CAMPBELL

Gently ♩ = 100

p

Soprano
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Alto
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Tenor
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Bass
For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

Detailed description: This system contains the first five staves of the score. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time and marked 'Gently' with a tempo of 100. The piano part is marked 'p' and includes a rehearsal cue. The lyrics are: 'For the days that are left the small - est song: a wish for snow'. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and moving lines in both hands.

6

S
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

A
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

T
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

B
on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long

Piano

Slower

Detailed description: This system contains the second five staves of the score, starting at measure 6. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics: 'on your part - ed hair. The fire is warm but the nights be - long'. The piano part continues with the accompaniment. A 'Slower' marking is placed above the vocal staves. The piano part includes a 'Slower' marking at the end of the system. The key signature changes to one sharp (F#) in the second system.

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THE SMALLEST SONG

2

11 *a tempo*
p

S
to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

A
to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

T
to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

B
to the days that are left, and the small - est song could say too

16

S
much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

A
much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

T
much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

B
much: would the words be wrong if the wish were right? would the

THE SMALLEST SONG

21

S words be wrong if the wish were right? *f*, *mf* What do

A words be wrong if the wish were right? *f*,

T words be wrong if the wish were right? *f*,

B words be wrong if the wish were right? *f*, *mf* What do I dare, —

25

S I dare, — What do I dare, *mf* for the days that are left? *mp* *f*

A What do I dare, *mf* for the days that are left? *mp* *f*

T What do I dare, *mf* What do I dare, *mp* for the days that are left? *f*

B — What do I dare, *mp* for the days that are left? *f*

THE SMALLEST SONG

4

30

mf mp mp mp mp

S — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

A — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

T — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

B — The small - est song? A wish for snow on your part - ed hair? Our

35

Slower, *a tempo*

S fires all warm, our nights all long

A fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

T fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

B fires all warm, our nights all long as the days that are left? as the

p

THE SMALLEST SONG

40

p *mp* *mp* *mp*

S as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

A days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

T days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

B days that are left? as the days that are left? The small - est song could say

45

mf *mf* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

S so much: could say so much: it would-n't be wrong if the words were

A so much: could say so much: it would-n't be wrong if the words were

T so much: could say so much: say so much:

B so much: say so much: say so much: say so much:

THE SMALLEST SONG

6

50

S *mf* right. *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. *mp*

A right. *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. *mp*

T *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. if the words were right. *mp*

B *mf* it would - n't be wrong if the words were right. if the words were right. *mp*

55

S *mf* What do we dare, *f* What do we dare, *f* for

A *mf* What do we dare, *f* What do we dare, *f* for

T *mf* What do we dare, *f* What do we dare, *f* for the

B *mf* What do we dare, *f* What do we dare, *f*

THE SMALLEST SONG

60

S *mf*
 the days that are left? The small - est song.

A *mf*
 the days that are left? The small - est song. The

T *f* *mf*
 days for the days for the days that are left? The small - est song.

B *f* *mf*
 for the days that are left? The small - est

65

S *p*
 The small - est small - est song. The small - est song.

A *p*
 small - est song. The small - est small - est song. The small - est song.

T *mp* *p*
 The small - est song. The small - est small - est song. The small - est song.

B *mp* *p*
 song. The small - est song. The small - est small - est song. The small - est song.

THE SMALLEST SONG

8

71 *pp* < > *Slower* < > , *pp* < >

S
A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

A
A wish _____ for snow _____ be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

T
A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

B
A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____

pp *pp*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the song 'The Smallest Song'. It features five staves: four for vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and one for piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are written in treble clef, while the piano part is in grand staff. The lyrics are: 'A wish _____ for snow be - fore part - ing. _____ There. _____'. The score includes dynamics such as *pp* (pianissimo) and a tempo marking of *Slower*. There are also hairpins indicating volume changes. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.