

SBMP 1387
DANCE FOR LOVE, Stroope

SATB
piano

Dance for Love

by
Z. Randall Stroope



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com

About the composer

Z. Randall Stroope is an American composer and conductor. He has lead concerts in 25 countries, is Artistic Director of two international summer festivals, and has directed music for Vatican mass on 16 different occasions. In the United States, Randall has conducted 45 performances at Carnegie Hall, and numerous appearances at Chicago Orchestra Hall, and other venues. Ensembles under his direction have performed at two national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. Randall has several albums on Spotify and created over 90 YouTube recordings.

A native of New Mexico, Randall attended the University of Colorado and Arizona State University, receiving a masters in vocal performance and doctorate in conducting, respectively. Randall's composition teachers were Normand Lockwood and Cecil Effinger, both students of the famous French teacher, Nadia Boulanger. Randall has a home/studio on Merritt Island, Florida and one near Santa Fe, New Mexico.

About the work

Text and music should mirror each other, like a mountain's reflection on a glassy lake below. The uniqueness of each graces the other, and together form a beautiful image all its own. Similarly, the composer conveys the "dramatic essence" of poetry by purifying all musical elements that might obscure the text, to create a transparent color palette that inseparably merges words and music.

In this work, the person has survived the ravages of war, and now eagerly turns homeward – walking, even dancing ("bare feet dance me home") past "furrowed fields and gentle rain on summer wheat." Sarah, who has waited years for this reunion, is just beyond the "old gray mill and the meadow's brow." "The cannons are silent, no drum over the hedgerow." Out of the seemingly impossible brokenness of war comes beauty and renewed life. The "pillars" or constants in life – just like the sun – have been there all the time...waiting for our return.

Dance for Love

by William Straub, Civil War poem, 1865

Softly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home,
My boots were made to stay,
but my feet were made to roam.
The silver maple sings with rhythm of my heart,
And forms an ancient song some sage did me impart.

The cannons are silent, no drum o'er the hedgerow,
Just the sound of rain on summer wheat.
I dance to beauty, I dance to laughter,
Beyond the pinewood, through furrow'd field
I dance for love.

Gone, I've three long years, mired in martyrs' fields,
But now my steps turn ever homeward,
Dance me past the old gray mill and the meadow's
brow, Homeward! Dance, dance.

Softly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home,
My boots were made to stay.
but my feet were made to roam.
Sarah waits for me with eyes of summer sky,
Her voice a dulcimer that plays a lullaby.

Behind the clouds the sun is still shining,
Dance!

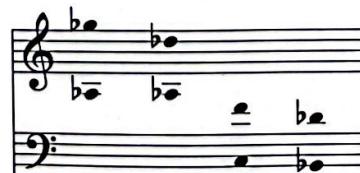


recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

Rehearsal notes

I find it helpful to prioritize/teach three concepts at once in a work such as this – mechanics (note/rhythms), phrasing (intent, motivation) and tone color. My dear friend, Christine Bass, calls this "front-loading." Dominating these three concepts from the first reading will yield amazing final results. Vocal parts are learned with color and melodic intent from the inception. Some of the rules I live by include: "A note is either coming or going – never static." "Tone color – just like the palette of a painter – communicates mood and drama." "Notes/intervals are more often challenging because of vocal registration/placement, not just aural issues." "Think of 'inflating' every phrase." "Dynamics are more about character than volume."

Range



S A T B

Commissioned by the Choirs of America,
Geoffrey McQueen, Executive Director and Christopher Olin, Artistic Director

Dance for Love

shape each phrase!

William Straub

Z. Randall Stroope


Expressive and Confident ♩ = 60



Piano

mf

Musical score for Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The dynamic marking is *mf*.



S
A

T
B

Soft-ly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home, My

Soft-ly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home, My

mp *mf*

Handwritten annotations: Blue circles around *mp* and *mf* dynamic markings. Dashed lines labeled "carry" connect notes across bar lines. A red diagonal line is drawn through the vocal lines.

Musical score for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) voices and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "Soft-ly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home, My". The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time. Dynamic markings *mp* and *mf* are present. Handwritten annotations include blue circles around *mp* and *mf*, dashed lines labeled "carry" indicating phrasing, and a red diagonal line through the vocal lines.

"Softly" is pronounced without the 't'.



It is illegal to duplicate this piece by photocopying or any other means.
Those violating the copyright will be punished to the full extent of the law.
© Copyright 2016 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.
Printed in the U.S.A.

The sil-ver ma - ple sings with
mp

boots were made to stay, but my feet were made to roam. The sil-ver ma - ple sings with
N/B *mp*

boots were made to stay, but my feet were made to roam. The sil-ver ma - ple sings with
mf *mp*

rhy-thm of my heart, And forms an an-cient song some sage did me im-part. The
mf *f*

rhy-thm of my heart, And forms an an-cient song some sage did me im-part. The
mf *f*

can - nons are si - lent, no drum o'er the hedge - row, Just the sound of rain on sum-mer
f

can - nons are si - lent, no drum o'er the hedge - row, Just the sound of rain on sum-mer
f

ci hweet

16

wheat, I dance to laugh - ter,

wheat, I dance to beau - ty,

19

Be-yond the pine - wood, through fur-row'd field I dance for

through fur - row'd field I dance for

slight rit.

22

a tempo

love. *mf* *awkward*

love. Gone, I've three long years, -

25 *mf*
 Dance me past the old gray mill
 "thee"
 mired in mar-tyrs' fields, But now my steps turn ev-er home-ward,

28 *f* *mf*
 and the mea-dow's brow, (Home - ward!) Dance, dance
 and the mea-dow's brow, (Dance,)

31 *mf*
 dance, My boots were made to stay, but my
 Softly falls the rain, bare feet dance me home, My boots were made to stay, but my

34 *p dolce e molto espr.* *mp*

feet were made to roam. My Sar-ah waits for me with (with) eyes of sum-mer sky, Her

feet were made to roam. My Sar-ah waits for me with eyes of sum-mer sky, Her

p

37 *f*

voice a dul-ci-mer that plays a lul-la-by, The can-nons are si-lent, no

voice a dul-ci-mer that plays a lul-la-by, The can-nons are si-lent, no

mf *f*

40 *stay f* *(hw)*

drum o'er the hedge-row, Just the sound of rain on sum-mer wheat,

drum o'er the hedge-row, Just the sound of rain on sum-mer wheat, I

43

I dance — to laugh - ter, Be-yond the pine - wood,
 dance — to beau - ty,

46

through fur-row'd field — I dance for love. Be -
 through fur-row'd field I dance for love. Be -

ff *ff*

49

ff to end
 hind the clouds the sun is still shin - ing, Dance!
 hind the clouds the sun is still shin - ing Dance!

