



TOO STILL FOR DREAMS

for SATB chorus & piano

[2022]

*Commissioned and premiered by
Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director
Toronto ON Canada*

text by

A.E. WETHERALD

music by

E.K.R. HAMMELL



Modern
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Collective

ABOUT THE PIECE

Commissioned and premiered by Modern Sound Collective in 2022, *Too Still for Dreams* draws its inspiration from several poems by Canadian writer A.E. Wetherald. In these texts, Wetherald reveals a deep sense of awe and mysticism towards the forest world. When writing the music, I imagined the narrator taking a slow, cautious walk in the woods at dusk, eventually succumbing to the eerie stillness of the environment and entering into a state of transcendence and reverence for nature.

MSC Presents

MSC Presents, launched in 2023 by Toronto's Modern Sound Collective (artistic director: Kai Leung), is a progressive new publication label serving as a professional distribution platform for the music of MSC-affiliated composers. Offering an extremely competitive royalty rate to its artists, this initiative aims to create accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration for the many talented young choral composers in the GTA and beyond.

PRINTING

Choral scores distributed by *MSC Presents* are optimized for 8.5x11 printing.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

E.K.R. Hammell (Evan, he/him) is a Canadian composer & arranger. Winner of three national composition awards in Canada, and a Finalist in the *International Young Talented Composers Competition*, Evan's music includes over a dozen commissioned original works and arrangements, and has been heard across four countries (Canada, USA, UK, & Spain). Originally from Prince Edward Island, Evan is currently based in Toronto. Aside from devising pretentiously abbreviated stage names, his other talents mainly involve playing bass trombone, choral singing, and being impressively bad at eye contact. (b. 1993)



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ORIGINAL TEXT

Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald (1857-1940)

Woodland Worship (excerpt)

*...it seems
too still for dreams.*

The House of the Trees

*Ope your doors and take me in,
Spirit of the wood;
Wash me clean of dust and din,
Clothe me in your mood.
Take me from the noisy light
To the sunless peace,
Where at midday standeth Night,
Signing Toil's release.
[All your dusky twilight stores
To my senses give;
Take me in and lock the doors,
Show me how to live.]
Lift your leafy roof for me,
Part your yielding walls,
Let me wander lingeringly
Through your scented halls.
Ope your doors and take me in,
Spirit of the wood;
Take me — make me next of kin
To your leafy brood.*

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At a gentle walking pace ♩ = 69

SOPRANO

pp *mp* (silence in tempo) *pp*

It seems too still for dreams. It seems too still for

ALTO

pp *mp* *pp*

It seems too still for dreams. It seems too still for

8

S.

mf *mp* *f* *p hushed* rit.

dreams, too still for dreams, too still.

A.

mf *mp* *f* *p hushed*

dreams, too still for dreams, too still.

Pno.

f *mf*

17

Calmly ♩ = 56

Pno.

p *mf* *p*

28 Reverent, steady

mf chant-like

24

B. *mf* chant-like

Ope your doors and take me in,

Pno. *mf* *f* bell tones

Red

28 Reverent, steady

30

B. *mf* chant-like

Spi-rit of the wood; Wash me clean of dust and din, Clothe me in your mood.

Pno.

36

mf chant-like

legato

T. *mf* chant-like *legato*

Take me from the noi - sy light To the sun-less peace, Where at mid-day stand-eth

B. *mf* chant-like *legato*

Take me from the noi - sy light To the sun-less peace, Where at mid-day stand-eth

Pno. *loco*

Red

42

T. Night, Sign-ing Toil's re - lease.

B. Night, Sign-ing Toil's re - lease.

Pno. *p* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *ff sim. p*

50

S. *f* chant-like
Ope your doors and take me in. Spi-rit_ of the wood Take me, make me next of_ kin,

A. *mp* *fp*
Take me in*
*(close to n)

T. *p* *mp*
mm Next of

B. *mp* *fp* *mp*
Take me in* Next of
*(close to n)

Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

58

molto legato

S. *To your leaf - y brood. Lift your leaf - y roof for_ me, Part your yield-ing*

A. *To your leaf - y brood. Lift your leaf - y roof for me, Part your yield-ing*

T. *kin* *(close to n) Lift your roof.*

B. *kin* *(close to n) Lift your roof.*

Pno. *ff p loco 58 ff p ff*

S. *walls, Let me wan-der ling-er-ing - ly Through your scent-ed*

A. *walls Let me wan-der ling-er-ing - ly wan-der.*

T. *Let_ me wan-der.*

B. *Let me wan-der.*

Pno. *ff mf f*

67 **68** *mf* *f* poco accel.

S. halls. Take me in, Spi-rit

A. *mf* *f* take me in, Spi-rit

T. *mf* *f* Ope your doors, take me in, Spi-rit

B. Take me in, Spi-rit

Pno. *mp* *f* poco accel.

75 Ethereal, più mosso (♩ = 60)

72 *ff* *p* *mp*

S. of the wood. ah

A. of the wood. ah *mp*

T. of the wood. ah *mp*

B. of the wood. ah

75 Ethereal, più mosso (♩ = 60)

Pno. *ff* *mp*

83

(*one or two S1s on top line until 'T'; consider moving some S2s to A1 temporarily)

Musical score for measures 80-83. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked with *mf* and include the instruction "stagger breathe, seamlessly flowing until bar 91". The piano part includes dynamic markings *mp* and *mf*. A large watermark "FOR PUSAL MODERN SOUND COLLECTIVE" is overlaid on the page.

83

Musical score for measures 86-89. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked with *f*. The piano part includes dynamic markings *f*. A large watermark "FOR PUSAL MODERN SOUND COLLECTIVE" is overlaid on the page.

91

90

S. *ff* *poco rit.*

A. *ff*

T. *ff*

B. *ff*

Pno. *ff* (silence in tempo) *mp* *mf* *poco rit.* *grv*

91

96

Pno. *mp* *p* *loco* *Calmly* = 56

102

S. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp* *poco rit.*

A. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

It seems too still for dreams, too still.

Pno. *pp* *mf* *f* *p*

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Choral Works Available **October 15th 2023**
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Mixed / SAB / SATB / SSAATTBB

<u><i>Lying Awake, Waiting</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sami Anguaya	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<u><i>May This Place</i></u>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<u><i>Too Still for Dreams</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	E.K.R. Hammell	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<u><i>Twilight</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	Francesca Hauser	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<u><i>When David Heard</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005

Treble / SA / SSA / SSAA

<u><i>Somewhere in Space</i></u>	SSAA & percussion trio	Emily Green	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
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