



THE SWALLOWS (TO YOUTH)
for SATB chorus a cappella
[2024]

Official Selection of the 2025 MSC Call for Scores
Premiered by Modern Sound Collective
Kai Leung, artistic director

text by
LEONORA SPEYER
music by
TYRESE WALTERS

ABOUT THE PIECE

The Swallows (to youth) was inspired by my time as a children's music educator. I was specifically inspired by the playful nature of early music education and how games can foster a dynamic learning environment for children. With poetry by Leonora Speyer, this piece connects the lively nature of birds in flight, intermittent bird chatter, and the jovial energy of children at play. The piece contains emulations of bird calls, and the intertwining shifts between chorale and polyphonic textures represent the fast and veering flight patterns of the swallow. To me, this is not unlike the classroom, where students and educators alike experience moments filled with excitement, quarrel, challenges, and joy.

ORIGINAL TEXT

Leonora Speyer (1872-1956)

Swallows

*They dip their wings in the sunset,
They dash against the air
As if to break themselves upon its stillness:
In every movement, too swift to count,
Is a revelry of indecision,
A furtive delight in trees they do not desire
And in grasses that shall not know their weight.
They hover and lean toward the meadow
With little edged cries;
And then,
As if frightened at the earth's nearness,
They seek the high austerity of evening sky
And swirl into its depth.*

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Tyrese Walters is a choral conductor, singer, and composer based in Toronto, Canada. He works with several choral organizations in Toronto including Young Voices Toronto and Modern Sound Collective. Tyrese holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Voice Performance from the University of Western Ontario, and is completing his Masters of Music in Choral conducting at the University of Toronto.



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PRINTING

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LEONORA SPEYER

for SATB chorus divisi a cappella

music by
TYRESE WALTERS

SOPRANO
♩ = 50
mp stagger breathe
Ah ah ah ah ah

ALTO
Ah
mp stagger breathe
mf ah

TENOR
Ah
mp stagger breathe

BASS
Ah

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

6

S. ah ah ah They wings

A. ah ah They dip their wings in the

T. They ah

B. They

9

Pno.

11

S. sun - set, they dash air ah air

A. sun - set, they dash a-against the air, dash a-against the air

T. sun - set, they dash a - gainst the air, a - gainst the air

B. sun - set, a - gainst the air, air, a - gainst the air

Pno.

17

S. *mf* up - on its still - ness. **21** *f*

A. *mf* As if to break them - selves up - on up - on its *f* In ev' - ry

T. *mf* As if to break them selves up - on, up - on its *f* In ev' - ry

B. *mf* As if to break them-selves up - on, up - on its *f* In ev' - ry

Pno. **21**

32

accel. ♩ = 55

S. *mf*
that not know their weight They hov - - er,

A. *mf*
that shall not know their weight They hov - - er

T. *f*
that shall not know their weight They hov-er and lean, Hov-er and lean,

B. *f*
that shall not know their weight They lean Hov-er and lean,

Pno. *mf*
accel. ♩ = 55

36

S. *f*
Hov - er lean Hov er, lean t'ward the mea-dow with

A. *f*
Hov - er lean Hov - er, lean t'ward the mea-dow with

T. *f*
Hov-er and lean, Hov-er and lean, Hov-er and lean, Hov-er and lean t'ward the mea-dow with

B. *f*
and Hoverand lean, Hov - er and lean t'ward the mea-dow with

Pno. *f*

39

S. lit-tle edg'd_ cries, cries, cries,

A. lit-tle edg'd cries, And, and then, and then, and then, and then,

T. edg'd cries, cries, cries, cries, cries,

B. edg - ed cries, And then, and then

Pno.

42

S. *mp sub. hushed* As if fright-ened at the earth's near - ness, *mf* They seek the high aus-te - ri - ty of

A. *mp sub. hushed* As if fright-ened at the earth's near - ness, seek the high of

T. *mp sub. hushed* As if fright-ened at the earth's near - ness, *mf* They seek the high aus-te - ri - ty of

B. *mp sub. hushed* As if fright-ened at the earth's near - ness, seek the high of

Pno.

48

46 *f* rit. *mp* *f* soaring $\text{♩} = 55$

S. eve - ning sky And swirl, swirl, swirl,

A. eve - ning sky And swirl to its depth, to its

T. eve - ning sky And swirl to swirl to its depth,

B. eve - ning sky And swirl

Pno.

48

49 *mp*

S. swirl, swirl, swirl, swirl, swirl, swirl,

A. depth, to its depth, to its depth, to its depth, to its depth, to its

T. swirl to its depth, swirl to its depth, swirl to its depth, swirl to its depth, swirl to its depth, swirl to its depth,

B. ah ah ah ah

Pno.

2. **repeat al niente**

S. 56
ah swirl, ah swirl, ah ah

A.
depth

T.
swirl, ah swirl, ah ah ah

B.
ah

Pno. 2. **repeat al niente**

The musical score is written for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (B.), and Piano (Pno.). The Soprano part begins at measure 56 with the lyrics 'ah swirl, ah swirl, ah ah'. The Alto part has the lyric 'depth'. The Tenor part has the lyrics 'swirl, ah swirl, ah ah ah'. The Bass part has the lyric 'ah'. The Piano accompaniment includes a second ending marked '2.' and 'repeat al niente'. The score is in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The Soprano and Tenor parts are in treble clef, the Alto and Bass parts are in treble clef, and the Piano part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

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 VOICINGS INDICATE MAXIMUM DIVISI SPLITS WITHIN EACH WORK

TITLE	COMPOSER	VOICING/INSTRUMENTATION	TEXT	DUR.	YEAR	SKU
<u>The Affable Enigma</u>	Danial Sheibani	SSSAAATTBB a cappella	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
<u>Dawn, Where Are You Now?</u>	Sami Anguaya	SSAATTBB, piano, 2 woodblocks	Sami Anguaya	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<u>Far and Away*</u>	Sean McIntyre	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sean McIntyre	5 min	2021	MSC0026
<u>Generation 2.5</u>	Kai Leung	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	7 min	2024	MSC0014
<u>Gratitude</u>	H. Zack Ferns	SATB a cappella	L.M. Montgomery	4 min	2024	MSC0017
<u>Hope is the Thing with Feathers</u>	Rémi St-Jacques	SATB a cappella	Emily Dickinson	3.5 min	2020	MSC0019
<u>I.</u>	Michael Nunes	SSAATTBB a cappella	Erica Kath	3 min	2019	MSC0018
<u>I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes</u>	H. Zack Ferns	SSAATTBB a cappella	Psalms 121 (KJV)	3 min	2024	MSC0022
<u>In the Lemon Groves</u>	Kento Stratford	SSAATTBB & piano	James Clarke	7 min	2024	MSC0023
<u>Jabberwocky</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SATB & piano	Lewis Carroll	6 min	2024	MSC0024
<u>Lying Awake, Waiting</u>	Sami Anguaya	SSAATTBB a cappella	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<u>May This Place</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<u>Ah, Moon of My Delight!</u>	Hirad Moradi	SSAATTBB a cappella	Omar Khayyam	8 min	2022	MSC0015
<u>Parturition*</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTB, piano, electronics	Mina Loy, Lola Ridge, Francesca Hauser	18 min	2026	MSC0025
<u>Le Pont Mirabeau</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SATB, soloist, & piano	Guillaume Apollinaire	4 min	2024	MSC0016
<u>Remember</u>	Madox Terrell	SSAATTBB a cappella	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
<u>The Sirens' Song</u>	Carol Kayee Mak	SSATBB & piano	William Browne	5 min	2019	MSC0008
<u>Somewhere in Space</u>	Emily Green	SSAA & percussion trio	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
<u>Spring and Fall</u>	Elizabeth Legierski	SSAATTBB a cappella	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
<u>The Swallows (To Youth)*</u>	Tyrese Walters	SSAATTBB a cappella	Leonora Speyer	4 min	2025	MSC0027
<u>That Shadow, My Likeness</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTBB & piano	Walt Whitman & Christina Rossetti	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<u>This is Not Love</u>	Tyrese Walters	SSAATTBB a cappella	Elsa Gidlow	3 min	2024	MSC0020
<u>'Tis Moonlight</u>	Pari Bahrami	SSAATTBB & piano	Emily Jane Brontë	6 min	2024	MSC0021
<u>Too Still for Dreams</u>	E.K.R. Hammell	SSAATTBB & piano	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<u>Twilight</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTBB & piano	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<u>What the Silence Offers</u>	Emily Green	SSAATTBB, soloist, & amplified speaker	Erica Kath	9 min	2022	MSC0012
<u>When David Heard</u>	Kai Leung	SSAATTBB a cappella	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005