



# **A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky**

**Composed by Amy Gordon**

**Text by Lewis Carroll**

Instrumentation: SATB Choir (with occasional divisi)

Duration: Approx. 3' 15"

**A Boat Beneath A Sunny Sky** is the closing poem of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The first letter of every line of text spells out the name Alice Pleasance Liddell, whom Carroll was (scandalously) very close to and was said to have inspired his book. The musical setting of the poem tries to capture the wonder of childhood but also the dark nostalgia that accompanies the passage of time.

#### Text

**A** Boat beneath a sunny sky,  
Lingering onward dreamily  
In an evening of July.

**C**hildren three that nestle near,  
Eager eye and willing ear,  
Pleased a simple tale to hear.

**L**ong has paled that sunny sky:  
Echoes fade and memories die:  
Autumn frosts have slain July.

**S**till she haunts me, phantomwise,  
Alice moving under skies  
Never seen by waking eyes.

**C**hildren yet, the tale to hear,  
Eager eye and willing ear,  
Lovingly shall nestle near.

**I**n a Wonderland they lie,  
Dreaming as the days go by,  
Dreaming as the summers die:

**E**ver drifting down the stream,  
Lingering in the golden gleam,  
Life, what is it but a dream?

**About the composer:** Amy Gordon is an active composer, arranger, songwriter, and vocalist based in Los Angeles, CA. As a choral composer, she has worked with and been commissioned by numerous choirs, including being the composer-in-residence for Nova Vocal Ensemble. She has also scored numerous films and webcasts. She has a BA in Composition from Loyola Marymount University and an MM in Composition from California State University, Long Beach.

# A Boat Beneath A Sunny Sky

Amy Gordon  
Text by Lewis Carroll

**Dreamily** ♩ = 96 *mp*

Soprano  
A boat \_\_\_\_\_ be-neath a sun - ny sky

Alto  
A boat \_\_\_\_\_ be-neath a sun - ny sky

Tenor  
*mp*  
A boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a

Bass  
*mp*  
A boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a boat, a

*rubato* *p* *rit.* -----

5  
S  
ling-er-ing on - ward dream-i ly in an eve-ning of Ju - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
ling-er-ing on - ward dream - i - ly in an eve-ning of Ju - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

T  
8  
boat. dream - i - ly in an eve-ning of Ju - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

B  
boat. dream - i - ly in an eve-ning of Ju - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

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**Slower** ♩ = 80  
*sweetly*

9

S Child - ren three that nest - le near, ea - ger — eye and will - ing ear,

A Child - ren three that nest - le near, ea - ger eye and will - ing ear,

T Child - ren three that nest - le near, ea - ger eye and will - ing ear,

B Child - ren three that nest - le near, ea - ger eye and will - ing ear,

13

S pleased a sim-ple tale to hear. — Long has paled that sun - ny sky;

A pleased a sim-ple tale to hear. Long has paled that sun - ny sky;

T pleased a sim-ple tale to hear. Long has paled that sun - ny sky;

B pleased a sim-ple tale to hear. Long has paled that sun - ny sky;

*mf* > **A** *p*

19

S *mf* Ech - oes fade and mem' - ries die. *f* Au - tumn frosts have

A *mf* Ech - oes fade and mem' - ries die. *f* Au - tumn frosts have

T *mf* Ech - oes fade and mem' - ries die. *f* Au - tumn frosts have

B *mf* Ech - oes fade and mem' - ries die. *div.* *f* Au - tumn frosts have

**B**

24

S *mp* slain Ju - ly. *p* Still she haunts me,

A *mp* slain Ju - ly. *p* Still she haunts me,

T *p* slain Ju - ly. Still she haunts

B slain Ju - ly.

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29

S *mf*  
phan - tom - wise, A - lice mo - ving un - der skies

A *mf*  
phan - tom - wise, A - lice mo - ving un - der skies

T *mf*  
me, phan - tom - wise, A - lice mo - ving un - der skies

B *unis. mp* *mf* *div.* *unis.*  
still she haunts me phan - tom - wise, A - lice mo - ving un - der skies

34

S *rit.* **C** *Slower, sweetly* ♩ = 80 *pp*  
ne - ver seen by wa - king eyes. Child - ren yet, the tale to hear,

A *pp*  
ne - ver seen by wa - king eyes. Child - ren yet, the tale to hear,

T *pp*  
ne - ver seen by wa - king eyes. Child - ren yet, the tale to hear,

B *pp*  
ne - ver seen by wa - king eyes. Child - ren yet, the tale to hear,

39 *mp*

S ea - ger — eye and will - ing ear, lov - ing - ly shall nest - le near.

A *mp*

A ea - ger eye and will - ing ear, lov - ing - ly shall nest - le near.

T *mp*

T ea - ger — eye and will - ing ear, lov - ing - ly shall nest - le near.

B *mp*

B ea - ger eye — will - ing ear, lov - ing - ly shall nest - le near.

43 *pp* *mf*

S In a won - der - land they lie, dream - ing as — the days — go by,

A *pp* *mf*

A In a won - der - land they lie, dream - ing as the days go by,

T *pp* *mf*

T In a won - der - land they lie, dream - ing as — the days go by,

B *pp* *mf*

B In a won - der - land they lie, dream - ing as the days — go by,

*div.* *unis.*

## A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky

**D** Dreamily ♩ = 96

49

*f* *mp*

S Dream-ing as the sum-mers die. E-ver drift-ing, e-ver drift-ing,

A Dream-ing as the sum-mers die. E-ver drift-ing, e-ver drift-ing,

T Dream-ing as the sum-mers die.

B *f* *div.* Dream-ing as the sum-mers die.

53

*mp* *unis. mp*

S e-ver drift-ing e-ver drift-ing, ling-er-ing in the

A e-ver drift-ing e-ver drift-ing, ling-er-ing in the

T E-ver drift-ing down the stream. ling-er-ing in the

B *unis. mp* E-ver drift-ing down the stream. ling-er-ing in the



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*molto rit.* ----- *Freely*

56

S  
gold - den — gleam. Life, what is it but a dream?  
*div. f unis. div. f > p*

A  
gold - en gleam. — Life, what is it but a dream?  
*div. f unis. div. f > p*

T  
gold - den gleam. — Life, what is it but a dream?  
*div. f unis. div. f > p*

B  
gold - den gleam. — Life, what is it but a dream?  
*div. f unis. div. f > p*

The image shows a musical score for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The score is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "gold - den — gleam. Life, what is it but a dream?". The score includes performance markings such as *molto rit.*, *Freely*, *div. f*, *unis.*, and *f > p*. The Soprano part starts with a fermata over the first measure. The Alto part has a fermata over the first measure. The Tenor part has a fermata over the first measure. The Bass part has a fermata over the first measure. The score is numbered 56 at the beginning of the Soprano line.