



Commissioned by and dedicated to SACRA/PROFANA directed by Juan Carlos Acosta

In Times of Hibernation

From Songs of Hope in Strange Times

Music & Text by Amy Gordon

Instrumentation: SATB Choir & Solo Cello

Duration: 3.5 minutes

The music and lyrics of **Songs of Hope in Strange Times: In Times of Hibernation** was written during the COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020 and was commissioned by SACRA/PROFANA Choir. The overall song cycle is five movements long, with each movement reflecting on how to find hope and meaning during strange and unknown times of life. After the first scary and frenetic days in March, 2020 when the severity of COVID-19 started to become apparent in the USA, the world then seemed to enter a deeper state of hibernating and waiting, but it was not always clear exactly what was being waited for. In this second movement, *In Times of Hibernation*, the text asks whether we can find meaning in times of deep hibernation and seemingly-endless waiting. The answer may be that we have to simply wait and hold our breath along with time as the events unfold. It may be that the deepest meaning may be found during the quietest of times.

Text

Half the world in slumber
Half know neither night nor day
The ticking of the clock stopped
The rustle of pages silent.
Is it here, in this state of waiting,
we hold our breath with time?

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.

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In Times of Hibernation

From *Songs of Hope in Strange Times*

Words & Music by Amy Gordon

Steadily (Half-Time Feel) ♩ = 110

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Cello

Steadily (Half-Time Feel) ♩ = 110
Dryly, like a clock or metronome

mp

4

S *mp* Half the world in slum - ber.

A *mp* Half the world in slum - ber.

T *mp* Half the world

B *mp* Half the world

Vc. top line Sul A

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Steadily (Half-Time Feel)' with a quarter note equal to 110 beats per minute. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are initially silent, indicated by whole rests. The Cello part begins with a steady, dry rhythmic pattern of quarter notes, marked 'mp' and 'Dryly, like a clock or metronome'. The vocal parts enter at measure 4 with the lyrics 'Half the world in slum - ber.' The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with a slur and a crescendo hairpin. The Tenor and Bass parts have a more rhythmic line with a slur and a crescendo hairpin. The Cello part continues with the same rhythmic pattern, with a 'top line Sul A' instruction above it.

8

mp

S Half know nei - ther night nor day.

A Half know nei - ther night nor day.

T *mp* Half the world

B *mp* Half the world

Vc.

11

p

S Half the world in slum - ber.

A *p* Half the world in slum - ber.

T *p* Half the world in slum - ber.

B *p* Half the world in slum - ber.

Vc. *p sfz p mf*

15 *mp*

S Half know nei-ther night — nor day.

A *mp*

A Half know nei-ther night — nor day.

T *mp*

T 8 Half know nei - ther night — nor day.

B *mp*

B Half know nei - ther night — nor day.

Vc. *sub. p* *f* 3 3

19 *mf* *f* *p*

S Half the world in slum - ber. —

A *mf* *f* *p*

A Half the world in slum - ber. —

T *mf* *f* *p*

T 8 Half the world in slum - ber. —

B *mf* Dryly, like a clock or metronome

B Half the world in slum - ber.

Vc. *molto vib.* *ord.* *mp* *f* *mp* *sfz* *mp*

23

S *mf* *f* *mp*
 Half know nei - ther night nor day.

A *mf* *f* *mp*
 Half know nei - ther night nor day.

T *mf* *f* *mp*
 Half know nei - ther night nor day.

B *mp*
 Half know nei - ther night nor day.

Vc. *mf* *f* *mp* *sfz* *mp*

27

S

A

T

B

Vc. *f* *molto vib.* *ord.* *p*

A

31 *p crisply*

S The tick-ing of the clock the tick-ing

A *p crisply*
The tick-ing of the clock the tick-ing,

T *p crisply*
The tick-ing of the clock the tick-ing,

B *p crisply*
The tick-ing of the clock the tick-ing

Vc.

35 *mp*

S of the clock the tick-ing,

A tick-ing of the clock the *mp*

T tick-ing of the clock the *mp*

B of the clock the tick-ing *mf*

Vc.

38

S
the tick - ing, tick - ing of the clock stopped. The

A
tick - ing, tick - ing of the clock stopped. The

T
tick - ing, tick - ing of the clock stopped. The

B
the tick - ing, tick - ing of the clock stopped. The

Vc.

42

S
rus - tle of pag - es si - lent.

A
rus - tle of pag - es si - lent.

T
rus - tle of pag - es si - lent.

B
rus - tle of pag - es si - lent.

Vc.

B

45

S inhale audibly and hold exhale audibly

A inhale audibly and hold exhale audibly

T inhale audibly and hold exhale audibly

B inhale audibly and hold exhale audibly

Vc. pizz. repluck
f *Gliss. pizz.* *mp*

50

S

A *mp opt. solo*
 Is it here, _____ in this state _____ (t) of wait - ing?

T

B

Vc.

54 *mp*

S Is it here, in this state____(t) of wait - ing?

A *tutti*
Is it here,_____ in this state (t) of wait - ing?_____

T *mp*
8 Is it here, in this state____(t) of wait - ing?

B *mp*
Is it here,_____ in this state_____(t) of wait - ing?_____

Vc. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp sfz mp sfz mp*

59 *p*

S Is it here, in this state____(t) of

A *p*
Is it here,_____ in this state____(t) of

T *p*
8 Is it here,____ in this state____(t) of

B *p*
Is it here,_____ in this state____(t) of

Vc. *p mp p mp pp*

63

S *mf* wait - - - ing? *mp* Is it here,

A *mf* wait - - - ing? *mp* Is it here, _____

T *mf* wait - - - ing? *mp* Is it here, _____

B *mf* wait - - - ing? *mp* Is it here, _____

Vc. arco *mf* *molto vib.* *pizz.* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

68

S *p* in this state ____ (t) of wait - - - ing? *mf*

A *p* in this state ____ (t) of wait - - - ing? *mf*

T *p* in this state ____ (t) of wait - - - ing? *mf*

B *p* in this state ____ (t) of wait - - - ing? *mf*

Vc. *pp* arco *mf* *molto vib.*

72

Vc. *mp* *fp* *ff* *mp* [C]

76

mp *sub. p* *mp*

S We hold our breath We

mp *sub. p* *mp*

A We hold our breath We

mp *sub. p* *mp*

T We hold our breath We

mp *sub. p* *mp*

B We hold our breath We

top line Sul A

Vc.

80

mp *sub. p* *mp* *sub. p*

S hold our we hold our breath

mp *sub. p* *mp* *sub. p*

A hold our we hold our breath

mp *sub. p* *mp* *sub. p*

T hold our we hold our breath

mp *sub. p* *mp* *sub. p*

B hold our we hold our breath

Vc.

In Times of Hibernation (from Songs of Hope in Strange Times)

poco rit.-----

84

S *mp* gradually close to an *mm* *Freely breathe one or two softly audible breaths* inhale audibly and hold

A *mp* gradually close to an *mm* *Freely breathe one or two softly audible breaths* inhale audibly and hold

T *mp* gradually close to an *mm* *Freely breathe one or two softly audible breaths* inhale audibly and hold

B *mp* gradually close to an *mm* *Freely breathe one or two softly audible breaths* inhale audibly and hold

Vc. *poco rit.*

p