



Commissioned by and dedicated to Westminster High School directed by Kelly Ann Self

In Times of Stasis

From Songs of Hope in Strange Times

Music & Text by Amy Gordon

Instrumentation:

SATB Choir (with featured Treble Choir)
& String Quartet

Duration: 5 Minutes

The music and lyrics of **Songs of Hope in Strange Times: In Times of Stasis** was written during the COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020-onwards and was commissioned by Westminster High School, directed by Kelly Ann Self. 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. *In Times of Stasis*, the third movement of this song cycle, represents the sense of stasis deep in the waiting period of the pandemic. Without being able to observe the normal markers of time passing, such as birthdays, school years, or holidays, time seemed to stand still as each day blended into the next. This sense of moving neither forward nor backward is reminiscent of walking in the ocean tide, where one wave is crashing on shore and another is receding, creating the sense one is simply standing still. While it can be hard to find meaning in these static times, perhaps just being alive and present in this moment is in itself enough.

This movement could be performed as a stand-alone piece or as part of the entire song cycle.

Text

When you are suspended
In crystallized time,
Neither ebbing nor flowing
Caught mid-crosscurrent in the tide,
It is here you simply breathe,
Knowing that This.
You.
It is enough.

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 Stasis

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Static ♩ = 94

The musical score is written for four string instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 94 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a *p* dynamic and the instruction "evenly, blending with other strings". The second system (measures 5-8) continues the texture. The third system (measures 9-12) features a *mf* dynamic. The Cello part in the third system includes a chromatic descending line in the final measure.

A

13

S *mp*
When you are sus-pend-ed, _____ when you are sus-pend-ed, _____

A *mp*
When you are sus-pend-ed, _____

T *mp*
When you are sus-pend-ed, _____ when you are sus-pend - ed, _____

B *mp*
When you are sus-

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

17

S
when you are sus-pend-ed, _____ when you are sus-pend - ed, _____

A
When you are sus-pend-ed, _____ when you are sus-pend-ed, _____

T
_____ when you are sus-pend - - - - ed, _____

B
pend - ed, _____ when you are sus - pend - ed, _____

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

21

mp

S When ___ you are sus-pen-ded ___ in

mp

A When ___ you are sus-pen-ded ___ in

mp

T When ___ you are sus-pen-ded ___ in

mp

B When ___ you are sus-pen-ded ___ in

Vln. I *mp* Subtly change bow direction when needed

Vln. II *mp* Subtly change bow direction when needed

Vla. *mp* Subtly change bow direction when needed

Vc. *mp* Subtly change bow direction when needed

The image shows a page of a musical score for a piece titled "In Times of Stasis" from the album "Songs of Hope in Strange Times". The page is numbered 6 and starts at measure 21. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). Each vocal part has the lyrics "When ___ you are sus-pen-ded ___ in". The vocal parts are written in a common time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano). Below the vocal parts are four string parts: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Each string part has performance instructions: "Subtly change bow direction when needed". The string parts are also marked with *mp*. The score is written in a common time signature with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts have a melodic line with some rests, and the string parts have a rhythmic accompaniment.

26

S
crys-tal-lized time, _____ (mm) _____
f *pp*

A
crys-tal-lized time, _____ (mm) _____
f *pp*

T
crys-tal-lized time, _____ (mm) _____
f *pp*

B
crys-tal-lized time, _____ (mm) _____
f *pp*

Vln. I
f

Vln. II
f

Vla.
f

Vc.
f

B

31

Vln. I
mp *pizz. crisply*

Vln. II

Vla.
mp *evenly*

Vc.
mp *pizz. crisply*

36 *mp* evenly, matching Viola

Treble Choir
When you are sus-pend-ed _____ in crys-tal-lized time, (mm)

Vln. I
mp

Vln. II
pizz. *crisply mp*

Vla.
match Treble Choir
mp

Vc.
mp

40

Treble Choir
When you are sus-pend-ed _____ in crys-tal-lized time, (mm)

S
mp
Nei-ther ebb-ing, nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-

A
crisply mp
Nei-ther ebb-ing, nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-ing,

T
crisply mp
Nei-ther ebb-ing, nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-ing,

Vln. I
mp

Vln. II
mp

Vla.
mp

Vc.
mp

44

Treble Choir
sus-pen-ded, _____ in time, (mm)

S
ing, *mp* Nei-ther ebb-ing, *mp* nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-

A
mp Nei-ther ebb-ing, *mp* nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-ing,

T
mp Nei-ther ebb-ing, *mp* nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-ing,

B
crisply mp Nei-ther ebb-ing, *mp* nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow-ing,

Vln. I
mp *mp*

Vln. II
mp *mp*

Vla.
..

Vc.
mp *mp*

48 *p* *mp*

Treble Choir
sus-pen-ded _____ sus-pen - ded, _____

S
ing, _____ *p* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____ *mp* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____

A
_____ *p* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____ *mp* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____

T
_____ *p* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____ *mp* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____

B
_____ *p* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____ *mp* nei-ther ebb ___ nor flow, _____

Vln. I
_____ *p* _____ *mp* _____

Vln. II
_____ *p* _____ *mp* _____

Vla.
p _____ *mp* _____

Vc.
_____ *p* _____ *mp* _____

52 *mf* *f*

Treble Choir
sus-pen-ded

S
mf *f*
nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow ing,

A
mf *f*
nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow - ing,

T
mf *f*
nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow - - - ing,

B
mf *f*
nei-ther ebb-ing nor flow - - - ing,

Vln. I
mf *f* arco

Vln. II
mf *f* arco

Vla.
f

Vc.
mf *f* arco

C
56

mf

S
Caught _____ (t) caught mid - cross - cur - rent - in ___ the

mf

A
Caught _____ (t) caught mid - cross - cur - rent in ___ the

mf

T
Caught _____ (t) caught mid - cross - cur rent in ___ the

mf

B
Caught _____ (t) caught mid - cross - cur - rent in ___ the

Vln. I

Vln. II

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

molto rit. -----

61

S
A
T
B

8

tide. _____

tide. _____

tide. _____

tide. _____

p

p

p

p

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

lightly, echoing V2

lightly

mf

mf

p

p

p

p

molto rit. -----

D *a tempo*

65 *mp* *inhale softly*

S It is here you sim-ply breathe.

mp *inhale softly*

A It is _____ here you sim-ply breathe.

mp *inhale softly*

T It is here you sim-ply breathe.

mp *inhale softly*

B It is _____ here you sim-ply breathe.

softly shimmering

Vln. I *p*

softly shimmering

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

70

S
A
T
B

inhale softly

It is here you simply

It is here you simply

It is here you simply

It is here you simply

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble and instruments. The vocal parts are Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The instrumental parts are Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "It is here you simply". There are four measures of music shown. The vocal parts have lyrics under each note. The instrumental parts have various rhythmic patterns. There are performance instructions "inhale softly" above the vocal parts. The page number 70 is in the top left corner. The page number 15 is in the top right corner.

75

accel.
mf

S
breathe. _____ You breathe. _____

mf

A
breathe. _____ You breathe. _____

mf

T
8 breathe. _____ You breathe. _____

mf

B
breathe. _____ You breathe. _____

accel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

f

f

f

78

S
A
T
B

You breathe.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

ff

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a vocal quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello). The vocal parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The string parts are in various clefs: Violin I and II in treble clef, Viola in alto clef, and Violoncello in bass clef. The key signature for the strings is also one sharp. The score is divided into two measures. In the first measure, the vocalists sing 'You breathe.' with a long note. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in triplets. In the second measure, the vocalists continue with a long note, and the strings play a more complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) for both the vocalists and the strings.

E

Finding Peace ♩ = 88

81

inhale softly mp *exhale softly* *inhale softly* *exhale softly*

Treble Choir
You breathe. You breathe.

Vln. I
softly shimmering sub. p

Vln. II
softly shimmering sub. p

87

inhale softly *exhale softly*

Treble Choir
You breathe.

S
p
Know - ing ooh Know - ing this.

A
p
Know - ing ooh Know - ing this.

T
p
Know - ing ooh Know - ing this.

B
mp
Know - ing that this. Know - ing that this.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.
expressively; doubling Basses mp *p* *mp* *molto vib.*

Vc.
p *espress. mp* *ord. p*

94

Treble Choir

S

A

T

B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

mp inhale and exhale as if calming yourself

You.

f

mp inhale and exhale as if calming yourself

You.

f

mp inhale and exhale as if calming yourself

You.

f

mp inhale and exhale as if calming yourself

You.

f

mp inhale and exhale as if calming yourself

You

molto vib.

f

molto vib.

f

molto vib.

f

molto vib.

f

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

F

molto rall. ----- *a tempo*
softly as if to yourself

Slowly recede out of texture at your own pace *pp*

Treble
Choir

It is e - nough.

S

It is e - nough.

A

It is e - nough.

T

It is e - nough.

B

It is e - nough.

molto rall. ----- *a tempo*

Vln. I

p evenly, blending with other strings

Vln. II

p evenly, blending with other strings

Vla.

p evenly, blending with other strings

Vc.

p evenly, blending with other strings

recede out of texture

103

Vln. I

recede out of texture

n

Vln. II

recede out of texture

n

Vla.

recede out of texture

n

Vc.

n