

# The Red Bird of Winter

music by Deanna Wehrspann

lyrics by Ivan Fuller

When the red bird of winter  
Tilts his head toward the sun  
When the snowshoes of freedom  
Trek their slow pathway home  
When the north feels a prison  
And the south spreads her arms...

When the morning call echoes  
On the welcoming heart  
When the return is certain  
Through the years waiting here  
When you say that it's time now  
And the long wait is done...

I'll look with the red bird  
I'll put on my snowshoes  
I'll break free and find you

I'll answer the call  
I'll find my way back there  
I've been waiting...and waiting...and waiting

And now I'm not waiting...  
"Hey, it's good to see you.  
I'm here."

commissioned for the 2015-16 Roosevelt High School Concert Choir;  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Robyn Starks Holcomb, conductor

# The Red Bird of Winter

for SSATB choir and piano

IVAN FULLER

DEANNA WEHRSPANN (ASCAP)

Skyward ♩ = 136

PIANO *pp*

with pedal

7

S.

A.

T. *p* but intense

8 Red

B.

PNO. *sim.*

13

S.

A.

T.

B.

PNO.

*p* but intense

Red

bird, red

Detailed description: This system covers measures 13 through 18. The Soprano (S.) and Bass (B.) parts are silent, indicated by whole rests. The Alto (A.) and Tenor (T.) parts have melodic lines with lyrics. The Alto part begins in measure 14 with the word "Red" and continues with a melodic phrase. The Tenor part has lyrics "bird," in measure 13 and "red" in measure 14. The Piano (PNO.) accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *p* but intense.

19

S.

A.

T.

B.

PNO.

bird,

bird,

Detailed description: This system covers measures 19 through 24. The Soprano (S.) and Bass (B.) parts are silent, indicated by whole rests. The Alto (A.) and Tenor (T.) parts have melodic lines with lyrics. The Alto part has lyrics "bird," in measure 20 and continues with a melodic phrase. The Tenor part has lyrics "bird," in measure 20 and continues with a melodic phrase. The Piano (PNO.) accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as in the previous system.

25 *mp*

S. Red bird

A. *mp* red

T. *mp* red

B. *mp* Red bird

PNO. *mp*

31 *mf*

S. wait

A. *mf* bird, red bird

T. *mf* bird, red bird

B. *mf* wait

PNO.

37 *rubato* *f* *soaring*

S. - - - - ing. When the red bird of

A. wait - - - - ing. When the red bird of

T. wait - - - - ing. *f* Red bird

B. - - - - ing. *f* Red

PNO. *rubato*

43

S. win - ter Tilts his head toward the sun When the

A. win - ter Tilts his head toward the sun When the

T. of win - ter Tilts his head toward the sun

B. bird of win - - - - ter

PNO.

49

S. snow - shoes of free - dom \_\_\_\_\_ Trek their slow path - way

A. snow - shoes of free - dom \_\_\_\_\_ Trek their slow path - way

T. When the snow-shoes of free - dom Trek\_\_ their path - way

B. Snow - shoes, free - dom, Trek\_\_ their path - way

PNO.

55

S. home When the north feels a pris - on And the *cresc.*

A. home When the north feels a pris - on And the *cresc.*

T. home \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ pris - on, \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

B. home \_\_\_\_\_ When the north \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ pris - on, \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.*

PNO. *cresc.*

61

S. south spreads her arms...

A. south spreads her arms...

T. south spreads her arms...

B. south spreads her arms...

PNO. joyfully ff

67

S.

A.

T.

B.

PNO.

72 *p* lightly in SSA

S. Morn - ing ech - oes, wel -

S. Morn - ing ech - oes, wel -

A. Morn - ing ech - oes, wel -

*f* full unison in TB Morn - ing ech - oes, wel -

T. When the morn - ing call ech - oes On the

B. When the morn - ing call ech - oes On the

PNO. *mp*

78

S. com - ing heart When re - turn is

S. - com - ing heart When re - turn is

A. - com - ing heart When re - turn

T. wel-com - ing heart When the re - turn is cer - tain

B. wel-com - ing heart When the re - turn is cer - tain

PNO.