

Martha Hill Duncan

STAR PRAYERS

for SSA & Piano



Treble Choir Series

“Hannah sings” – Oil on Canvas by Judith Quintin

Judith Quintin was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec and studied at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Ontario College of Art and Queen's University. She taught art classes in the Department of Physiotherapy at Queen's University and enjoyed teaching private classes in the Kingston area.

Her work has been shown in galleries and solo and group shows in Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto and Oakville, Canada. She was an exhibitor in the 1996 and 1997 Toronto Outdoor Exhibition and her work is in private collections across Canada, the United States and Europe. She works successfully on a commission basis. www.judithquintin.ca

Martha Hill Duncan wishes to thank her friend Judy for permission to use her colourful and expressive painting in her Treble Choir Series.

STAR PRAYERS

THE STAR

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by Beatrice Redpath (- 1937)

I think God sang when He had made
A bough of apple bloom,
And placed it close against the sky
To whiten in the gloom.

But, oh, when He had hung a star
Above a blue, blue hill,
I think God in His ecstasy
Was startled . . . and was still.

A CHILD'S PRAYER AT EVENING

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by Charles G.D. Roberts (1860-1943)

(Domine, cui sunt Pleiades curae)

Father, who keepest
The stars in Thy care,
Me, too, Thy little one,
Childish in prayer,
Keep, as Thou keepest
The soft night through,
Thy long, white lilies
Asleep in Thy dew.

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

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Anonymous Verse

Star light, Star bright,
First star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might
Have the wish I wish tonight.

In writing Star Prayers, I was fascinated by the attraction of the night sky and stars to people throughout the ages. I chose these three beautiful poems because they embodied a strong sense of wonder, hope and innocence. For performance, I imagined the night sky as a canopy enveloping all of the prayers, wishes and musings of an eternity of faces lifted towards the heavens.

2008, Martha Hill Duncan

2. A Child's Prayer At Evening

Words by Charles G.D. Roberts 1860-1943

Music by Martha Hill Duncan

Surrounded by stars ♩ = c. 76

Sop. 1

Opt. Solo *mp*₃

Domine—

Ad libitum
8^{va}

Piano

f with a gentle marcato *mp*

5

Sop. 1

cui sunt Plei-ad-es cur - ae.

Sop. 2

Opt. Solo *p*₃

Do mi-ne— cui sunt Plei-ad-es

Alto

5 (8^{va})

p simile

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked 'c. 76'. The score features a Soprano 1 part with an optional solo section marked 'mp' and a triplet of eighth notes. The Piano accompaniment is marked 'f with a gentle marcato' and 'mp'. The Soprano 2 part has an optional solo section marked 'p' and a triplet of eighth notes. The Alto part is mostly silent. The Piano part includes an 8va line and is marked 'p simile'. The lyrics are: 'Surrounded by stars', 'Domine—', 'cui sunt Plei-ad-es cur - ae.', and 'Do mi-ne— cui sunt Plei-ad-es'.