

**Martha Hill Duncan**

# **THE WALKER OF THE SNOW**

**for SSAA**



**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](http://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.*

## **The Walker of the Snow**

*Speed on, speed on, good master!  
The camp lies far away;  
We must cross the haunted valley  
Before the close of day.*

*How the snow-blight came upon me  
I will tell you as I go,-  
The blight of the shadow hunter  
Who walks the midnight snow.*

*To the cold December heaven  
Came the pale moon and the stars,  
As the yellow sun was sinking  
Behind the purple bars.*

*The snow was deeply drifted  
Upon the ridges drear,  
That lay for miles around me  
And the camp for which we steer.*

*`Twas silent on the hillside,  
And by the solemn wood  
No sound of life or motion  
To break the solitude,*

*Save the wailing of the moose-bird  
With a plaintive note and low,  
And the skating of the red leaf  
Upon the frozen snow.*

*And said I, - "Though dark is falling,  
And far the camp must be,  
Yet my heart it would be lightsome,  
If I had but company."*

*And then I sang and shouted,  
Keeping measure, as I sped,  
To the harp-twang of the snow-shoe  
As it sprang beneath my tread*

*Nor far into the valley  
Had I dipped upon my way,  
When a dusky figure joined me,  
In a capuchon of gray,*

*Bending upon the snow-shoes  
With a long and limber stride;  
And I hailed the dusky stranger,  
As we traveled side by side.*

*But no token of communion  
Gave he by word or look,  
And the fear-chill fell upon me  
At the crossing of the brook.*

*For I saw by the sickly moonlight,  
As I followed, bending low,  
That the walking of the stranger  
Left no foot-marks on the snow.*

*Then the fear-chill gathered o'er me,  
Like a shroud around me cast,  
As I sank upon the snow-drift  
Where the shadow hunter passed.*

*And the otter-trappers found me,  
Before the break of day,  
With my dark hair blanched and whitened  
As the snow in which I lay.*

*But they spoke not as they raised me;  
For they knew that in the night  
I had seen the shadow hunter,  
And had withered in his blight.*

*Sancta Maria speed us!  
The sun is falling low, --  
Before us lies the Valley  
Of the Walker of the Snow!*

*Charles Dawson Shanly (1811-1875)*

# The Walker of the Snow

Words by Charles Dawson Shanly (1811-1875)

Music by Martha Hill Duncan

[A] Urgently ♩ = 100

Sop. 1

Sop. 2 *p* We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley Be-

Alto 1 *p* Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way; We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley Be-

Alto 2 *p* Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way; We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley Be-

[A] Urgently ♩ = 100

Piano (Rehearsal only) *p*

S 1 *mp* Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way;

S 2 *mp* -fore the close of day. Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way;

A1 *mp* -fore the close of day. Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way;

A2 *mp* -fore the close of day. Speed on, speed on, good mas-ter! The camp lies far a-way;

*mp*

"The Walker of the Snow"

7 *mf* *sub p*

S 1 Be - fore the close of How the snow blight came up-on me

S 2 *p* *mf* *sub p*  
We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley — Be - fore the close of day.

A 1 *p* *mf* *sub p*  
We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley — Be - fore the close of How the snow-blight came up-on me

A 2 *p* *mf* *sub p*  
We must cross the haunt-ed val-ley — Be - fore the close of day.

11 *mp*

S 1 I will tell you as I go, How the snow blight came up-on me I will tell you as I go, — The

S 2 *mp*  
day. — day. — I will tell you — as I go, The

A 1 *mp*  
I will tell you as I go, How the snow-blight came up-on me I will tell you as I go, — The

A 2 *mp*  
day. day. The

"The Walker of the Snow"

4

15

S 1 blight of the sha - dow hun - ter, who walks the mid - night To the

S 2 blight of the shad - ow hun - ter, who walks the mid - night To the

A1 blight of the shad - ow hun - ter, who walks the mid night

A2 blight of the sha - dow hun - ter, who walks the mid night

*rit.* *mf*

[B] Joyfully ♩ = 75

19

S 1 cold De-cem-ber hea-ven Came the pale moon and the stars, As the yel-low sun was sink - ing Be hind the pur-ple

S 2 cold De-cem-ber hea-ven Came the pale moon and the stars, As the yel-low sun was sink - ing Be hind the pur-ple

A1 *mf* snow. stars, As the yel-low sun Be hind

A2 *mf* snow. stars, As the yel-low sun Be hind

[B] Joyfully ♩ = 75

"The Walker of the Snow"

22

S 1 *mf* bars. The snow was deep - ly drift - ed Up - on the rid - ges drear, *p* That lay for miles a -

S 2 *mf* bars. The snow was deep - ly drift - ed Up - on the rid - ges drear, *p* That lay for miles a -

A 1 *mf* bars. The snow was deep - ly drift - - - ed.

A 2 *mf* bars. The snow was deep - ly drift - - - ed *p* That lay for miles a -

22

26

S 1 *mp* - round me and the camp for which we steer. 'Twas si - lent on the hill - side. And

S 2 *mp* - round me and the camp for which we steer. 'Twas si - lent on the hill - side, And

A 1 *p* and the camp for which we steer. 'Twas si - lent on the hill - side, And

A 2 *mp* - round me and the camp for which we steer. 'Twas si - lent on the hill - side, And

26