

Thus Spake the Mother

for SSA Choir



Music by Melissa Dunphy
Poetry by Sri Ananda

3.5 min
2024

*Commissioned by the William & Mary Society of 1918
for the W&M Barksdale Treble Chorus (Dr. Jamie C. Bartlett, director)
celebrating 100 years of treble music making at W&M*

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Forward! Forward! Carry my banner beyond the Boundary!
Cross the ditches, break the hedges, and march unto the Beyond!
Soar into the firmament and pluck the light of the stars,
Dive unbreathing into the billows and seize the secret of the lightless sea,
Scan and control what mighty powers lie hidden in the soul's unfathomed deeps.
Nature will bring her long-saved treasures to serve and nurture you,
But you shall lead Humanity by the hand with gentle, ceaseless, sweet, unasking love.

—From *Snow-Birds* by Sri Ananda Acharya (1919)

Cover artwork by Faith Ronquest.



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Allegretto $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 126$

The musical score consists of four staves. The top three staves represent individual vocal parts: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto. The bottom staff is a reduction of the three voices. The key signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). The tempo is Allegretto, with a note value of $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 126$. Dynamics include **p** (piano), **mf** (mezzo-forte), and **f** (fortissimo). The lyrics "For - ward! For - ward!" are repeated in each section of the vocal parts. The reduction staff shows the combined harmonic progression.

This section of the score begins at measure 8. It features three vocal parts (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto) and a reduction staff. Measure 8 starts with a rest followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 9 begins with "For-ward!". Measures 10-11 show "For-ward! For - ward!" followed by a dynamic change. Measures 12-13 continue the pattern. A large square bracket labeled 'A' covers measures 14-15. Measures 16-17 show "For-ward! For - ward!" followed by another dynamic change. Measures 18-19 continue the pattern. The reduction staff at the bottom provides harmonic context.

2 16 *f*

S1 Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond_ the Bound - a - ry!____ For-ward! For - ward!

S2 Car - ry my ban - ner be - yond_ the Bound - a - ry!____ For - ward! For- ward!

A Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry!____ For-ward! For-ward! For-ward!

23

S1 For-ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry!____ Cross the

S2 For - ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond_ the Bound - a - ry!____ Cross the

A For-ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond_ the Bound - a - ry!____

B

29

S1 ditch - es, break_ the hed - ges, and march_ un - to the Be - yond!

S2 ditch - es, break_ the hed - ges, and march_ un - to the Be -

A Cross the ditch - es, break the hed - ges and march_ un - to the Be - yond!

36

S1 *mf*

Cross the ditch - es break the hed - ges,
For - ward!

S2 *mf*

yond! Cross the ditch - es, break the hed-ges and march un - to the Be-yond!

A *mf*

Cross the ditch - es break the hed-ges, hed - ges and march un - to the Be - yond,

44

S1 *mf*

For - ward! For - ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward!

S2 *mp* *mf*

For - ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward!

A *mp* *mf*

the Be - yond! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward!

50

C *f*

S1 For-ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment and pluck the light of the

S2 *f*

For-ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment and pluck the light of the

A *f*

For-ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment, pluck the light,

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4 57

S1 stars, *f* dive in - to the bil-lows and *p*

S2 stars, *f* dive un - breath - ing in - to the bil-lows and *p*

A pluck the light of the stars, *f* dive and *p*

f *p*

63

S1 seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. *mp* For-ward!

S2 seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. *mp* For-ward!

A seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. *mp* For-ward! For-ward! For - ward!

mp

72

S1 For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For - ward! For - ward! For-ward! For-ward!

S2 For-ward! For - ward! For - ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward!

A For - ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For-ward! For - ward! For - ward!

D

79 **f** 5

S1 Scan, scan and con - trol the might - y pow - ers
 S2 Scan and con - trol, Scan and con - trol the pow - ers
 A Scan and con - trol, Scan and con - trol the might - y

84 **mp**

S1 — that lie hid - den, lie hid - den in the soul's un -
 S2 — the might - y pow'rs that lie hid - den in the soul's
 A pow'rs, might - y pow'rs that lie hid - den, hid - den

p

rit.

90 **mp**

S1 fath - omed deeps. Na - ture will
 S2 un - fath - omed deeps.
 A in un - fath - omed deeps.

6

E **Meno mosso** =c.116

95

S1 bring her long-saved treasures to serve you and nur-ture you, but

S2 Na - ture will bring her trea-sures to serve you and nur - ture you,

A Na - ture, Na - ture will bring her treasures to serve you, but

103

S1 you shall lead, you shall lead hu-

S2 but you shall lead, you shall lead hu-

A you, you shall lead, you shall lead,

rit.

111

S1 man - i - ty hu - man - i - ty by the hand,

S2 man - i - ty hu - man - i - ty by the hand with

A you shall lead hu - man - i - ty, hu - man - i - ty by the hand with

119 F **Moderato** =c.108**p** *espress.***poco rit.**

S1 gen-tle, gen-tle, cease-less, cease-less, sweet, un - ask - ing
espress. **mp** **p**

S2 gen-tle, gen-tle, cease - less, cease - less, sweet, un - ask - ing
espress. **mp** **p**

A gen - tle, gen - tle, cease-less, cease-less, sweet, un - ask - ing
espress. **mp** **p**

a tempo127 **mp****p**

S1 love, with love, with love, with love, with
mp **p**

S2 love, with love, with love, with love, with
mp **p**

A love, with love, with love, with love, with
mp **p**

rit.

133

pp

S1 love, with love.
pp

S2 — with love, gen - tle love.
pp

A love, with love, love.
pp