

# You Birth the Seeds

SATB chorus and piano

5 min

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Poetry by Zeina Azzam

2023

*Commissioned by the Alexandria Choral Society*

# You Birth the Seeds

## SATB chorus and piano

Music by Melissa Dunphy  
Poetry by Zeina Azzam

*To our daughters*

Do not mistake our white hair for weariness.  
We've earned and love  
each snowy strand and coil.

Look up to see the ample rainclouds  
greening open fields, and think of us.  
We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing.

We trust the luminous scales of justice,  
gripped and safe in our hands.  
Behold and cherish them as gleaming guiding stars.

Honor the dark days—they remind us  
there is no morning without night.  
You have the choice: resist, persist, stand tall, find worth.

Now, *you're* the wafting silk in golden stalks of corn.  
You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to sing.  
*You* birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to sing.

We summon you to safeguard the field and home  
we fought so hard to build.  
They are your rightful breath, dignity, sun, and joy.



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# You Birth the Seeds

Poetry by Zeina Azzam

Music by Melissa Dunphy

To our daughters

**Moderato** ♩=c.60  
*p*

Soprano  
You, you have the choice.

Alto  
You you have the choice.

Tenor  
You have the choice.

Bass  
You have the choice.

Piano  
*p*  
pedal freely

6 solo  
S. Do not mis-take our white hair for wear-i-ness.  
A. Oo We've earned and love each  
T. Oo We've earned and love each  
B. Oo, oo.

Pno.

9

S. *mp*  
snow-y strand and coil. Look up to see the am - ple rain - clouds green-ing

A. *mp*  
snow-y strand and coil. Look up to see the am - ple rain - clouds green-ing

T. *mp*  
Look up to see the am - ple rain - clouds

B. *mp*  
Look up to see the am - ple rain - clouds green-ing

Pno. *mp*  
3 6

12

S. *mf*  
o - pen fields, and think of us, think of us. We birthed the

A. *mf*  
o - pen fields and think of us, think of us. We birthed the

T. *mf*  
green-ing o - pen fields, and think of us, think of us. We birthed the

B. *mf*  
o - pen fields, think of us. We birthed the

Pno. *mf*  
3

15

S. seeds and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing.

A. seeds and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing.

T. seeds and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing.

B. seeds and roused the reeds to sing, birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing.

Pno.

19

**A**

S. *p espress.* We trust the lu-min-ous scales of jus-tice, gripped and safe in our

A. *p espress.* We trust the lu-min-ous scales of jus-tice, gripped and safe,

T. *p espress.* We trust the lu-min-ous scales of jus-tice, gripped and safe in our

B. *p espress.* We trust the lu-min-ous scales of jus-tice, gripped and safe in our

Pno.

23

S. hands. Be - hold \_\_\_\_\_ and cher-ish them as gleam - ing guid - ing

A. safe in our hands. Be - hold \_\_\_\_\_ and cher-ish them as gleam - ing guid - ing

T. hands. \_\_\_\_\_ Be - hold \_\_\_\_\_ and cher - ish them as gleam - ing

B. hands. \_\_\_\_\_ Be - hold \_\_\_\_\_ and cher - ish them as gleam - ing guid - ing

Pno.

27

S. stars. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* We birthed the

A. stars. *mf* We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing. \_\_\_\_\_ We birthed the

T. *mf* guid - ing stars. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to

B. *mf* We birthed \_\_\_\_\_ the seeds and roused the reeds to

Pno. *mf*

30

S. seeds and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to

A. seeds and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to

T. sing, and roused the reeds to sing. We birthed the seeds and

B. sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing, the seeds and

Pno.

33

S. sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing. **B**

A. sing. We birthed the seeds and roused the reeds to sing. *p* Hon - or the

T. roused the reeds to sing, roused the reeds to sing. *p* Hon - or the

B. roused the reeds to sing, roused the reeds to sing. *p* Hon - or the

Pno. **B**

37 *p*

S. Hon - or them— they re - mind us there is no morn-ing with-out night. You have the

A. dark days— they re - mind us. *p* Re - sist, per - sist,

T. dark days— they re - mind us there is no morn-ing with-out night.

B. dark days— they re - mind us. *p* no\_\_\_ morn-ing with-out

Pno.

40 *f*

S. choice: re-sist, per-sist, stand tall, find worth, find worth. Now you're the waft - ing

A. re - sist, per - sist, stand tall, find worth, find worth. Now you're the waft - ing

T. *mp* Re - sist, per - sist, re - sist, per - sist, stand tall, find worth. *f*

B. night. *mp* Per - sist, re - sist, per - sist, stand tall, find worth. *f*

Pno.



45

S. silk in gold - en stalks of corn. You *mf*

A. silk in gold - en stalks of corn. You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to *mf*

T. Now you're the waft-ing silk in gold-en stalks of corn. You birth the *mf*

B. Now you're the waft-ing silk in gold-en stalks of corn. You birth the *mf*

Pno. *mf*

49

S. birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the

A. sing. You birth the seeds. You birth the seeds, birth the

T. seeds and rouse the seeds. You birth the seeds, birth the

B. seeds and rouse the reeds, and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the

Pno.

54 *mf* **C** Più mosso

S. seeds. We sum-mon you to safe - guard the field

A. seeds. We sum-mon you to safe - guard the field, we

T. seeds. We sum-mon you to safe - guard the field, we sum-mon you,

B. seeds. We sum-mon you to safe - guard the field, we sum-mon you,

Pno. *mf* **C** Più mosso

58 *f*

S. and the home we fought so hard to build. They are your

A. sum-mon you, home we fought so hard, so hard to build. They are your

T. and the home we fought so hard, so hard to build. They are your

B. and the home we fought so hard to build. They are your

Pno. *f*

63 *joyously* **rit.** *joyously*

S. right - ful breath, dig-ni - ty, sun, and joy. You birth the

A. right - ful breath, dig-ni - ty, sun, and joy. You birth the

T. right - ful breath, sun and joy.

B. right - ful breath, sun and joy. You birth the

Pno.

67 **Tempo primo**

S. seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to

A. seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to

T. seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the seeds and

B. seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the seeds and

**Tempo primo**

Pno.

70

S. sing. You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to sing. You birth the

A. sing. You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds, you birth the

T. rouse the reeds to sing. and rouse the reeds to sing,

B. rouse the reeds, you birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to

Pno.

73

*rit.*

S. *solo* You birth the seeds and rouse the reeds to sing.

*tutti*

A. seeds and rouse the reeds to sing.

T. and rouse the reeds to sing.

B. sing, the reeds to sing.

*rit.*

Pno.