

Performance Notes

The feeling of hope can be extremely delicate and fleeting, and yet it has incredible power to sustain us through the most difficult of times. Emily Dickinson's poem says it so beautifully, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all..." People everywhere can identify with these beautiful words.

This choral setting of the poem was composed for a Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration. The melody of *Ani Ma'amim* (the translation of which is "I believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he may tarry, I wait daily for his coming") is heard in the piano accompaniment in the center section of the piece as a tribute to those who sang this tune as they were marched to their deaths in concentration camps during World War II. *Dedicated with deep appreciation and friendship to Cantor Richard and Marsha Cohn.*

More Music by Debra Scroggins

Heartstrings (SA with Piano and Cello)	P1468
The Blooming Brights Star of Belle Isle (SATB with Piano and Violin)	JR0105
Yishakeni (SATB with Piano and Oboe)	P1510

In honor of Cantor Richard Cohn and his nine years of musical leadership
at Temple Emanu-El Dallas.

Hope

S.A.T.B, piano

for Marsha

Emily Dickinson
(1830-1886)

Debra Scroggins

Gently ♩ = c.78

Piano

mp *mf*

Ped.

rall. *slightly faster* (♩ = c.88)

rall. *a tempo* (♩ = c.88)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

S.A. *rall.* **Gently** (♩ = 88)

14 15 *mp* 16 17 18

"Hope" is the thing, "Hope" is the thing,

T.B. *mp*

"Hope", "Hope",

rall. **Gently** (♩ = 88)

mf *mp*

mf 19 20 21 *mp* 22

"Hope" is the thing with feath - ers, that

mf *mp*

"Hope" is the thing with feath - ers,

slightly faster

mf *mp*

slightly faster

simile

23 24 25 26 *unis.*

perch - es in the soul, and

unis.

that perch - es in the soul, and

27 28 29 *div.* 30

sings the tune with - out the words, and

sings the tune with - out the words, and

rall. *a tempo*

31 32 33 *f* 34

nev - er stops at all!

nev - er stops at all!

rall. *a tempo*

f

35 36 37 38

mf *f*

39 S.A. 40 *mp* 41 42

And sweet - est in the gale is

mf *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 39 through 42. The vocal line (S.A.) begins at measure 39 with a whole rest, then enters at measure 40 with a half note G4. The piano accompaniment starts at measure 39 with a half note G2 and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and chords in the treble. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*.

43 44 45 *mf* 46

heard, _____ and sore must be the _____

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 through 46. The vocal line has a long note in measure 43, followed by notes in measures 44 and 45. The piano accompaniment continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *mf*.

47 48 *mp* 49 50

storm _____

T.B. *mf*

that could a - bash the lit - tle

mp *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47 through 50. The Tenor (T.B.) line enters at measure 48 with a half note G2. The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

51 52 *mf* 53 54

that kept so man - y

bird that kept so man - y

55 56 *dim.* *mp unis.* 57 58

warm. I've heard it in the chill - est land *mp unis.*

warm. and

Solemnly ♩=84

59 60 *mf* 61 *div.* 62

yet nev - er in Ex -

on the strang - est sea, yet nev - er in Ex -

* Bring out this melodic line. It is one of the melodies set to the Jewish prayer, *Ani Ma'amin* which was composed during the Holocaust and sung by prisoners as they went to their deaths in the gas chambers.

rall.

63 **f** 64 65 66 67

trem - i - ty it asked a crumb of me.

trem - i - ty it asked a crumb of me.

rall.

f

Gently (♩=88)

68 **p** 69 **mp** 70 71

"Hope" is the thing, "Hope" is the

"Hope", "Hope",

Gently (♩=88)

p **mp**

slightly faster

72 **mf** 73 74 75

thing, "Hope" is the thing with feath - ers,

"Hope" is the thing with feath - ers,

slightly faster

mf **mp**

76 77 78

that perch - es in the soul,

that

79 80 81

and sings the

perch - es in the soul, and sings the

82 83 84

tune with - out the words, and

tune with - out the words, and

rall. *slightly faster*

85 nev - er stops at all! *f*

86 nev - er stops at all! *f*

87 nev - er stops at all! *f*

mf *f*

88 ah ah *f*

89 ah ah *f*

90 ah ah *f*

91 ah ah *f*

molto rall.

Musical score for voice and piano, measures 92-96. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves: four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and one piano accompaniment staff. The tempo is marked *molto rall.* and the dynamic is *mp*. The vocal parts feature long, sustained notes with 'ah' lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A large watermark 'For Review Only' is overlaid on the score.

92 93 94 95 96 *mp*

ah

ah

ah

ah

ah

molto rall.

mp

Debra Scroggins, composer, is known for her lyrical and engaging compositions and her music has been heard throughout the United States and Europe, and as far away as Russia, Asia and South America. She was named Commissioned Composer by the Texas Music Teachers Association and serves as Composer in Residence for both The Texas Voices (a professional chamber choir) and the Plano Civic Chorus (a 100-voice community choir). Her music is frequently performed at state, division and national American Choral Directors Association conventions in addition to numerous all-state and regional choirs, churches, schools and universities.



Drawing upon years of experience as a composer, professional singer and educator she is highly sought-after for commissions and as a consultant and conductor for choirs throughout the US.



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