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# Solstices

for mezzo-soprano, SATB chorus,  
percussion, piano, and strings

Jonathan Santore

## Instrumentation

Vibraphone  
Percussion 1 (temple blocks)  
Percussion 2 (concert toms)  
Percussion 3 (tambourine/suspended cymbal)  
Piano  
Mezzo-soprano  
SATB chorus  
Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Cello  
Double Bass

## Program Note

As someone who suffers from severe Seasonal Affective Disorder, a commission from the New Hampshire Master Chorale for a concert series around the summer solstice seemed particularly apt. As the days grow shorter in winter, I feel more and more imprisoned, and as the sun rises earlier and earlier with summer's approach, I feel a strong sense of being released from bondage. I found a 9th Century Irish text that perfectly sums up my emotions surrounding the winter solstice, and poems by Robert Louis Stevenson and the traditional text "Sumer Is Icumen In" capture both the giddy freedom and the supernatural stillness I find in summer's heat.

-JS

### Recitative: I Have News for You

"I have news for you:  
The stag bells, winter snows, summer has gone  
Wind high and cold, the sun low, short its  
course  
The sea running high.  
Deep red the bracken; its shape is lost;  
The wild goose has raised its accustomed cry,  
cold has seized the birds' wings;  
season of ice, this is my news."

--Ireland, 9th Century

Sing, Cuccu

Sumer is icumen in,  
Lhude sing, cuccu;  
Groweth sed  
and bloweth med,  
And springth the wode nu;  
Sing, cuccu!

Awe bleteth after lomb,  
Lhouth after calue cu;  
Bulluc sterteth,  
Bucke uerteth,

Murie sing, cuccu!  
Cuccu, cuccu,  
Wel singes thu, cuccu;  
Ne swic thu naver nu.

--England, 13th Century

### The Gardener of the World

Great is the sun, and wide he goes  
Through empty heaven with repose;  
And in the blue and glowing days  
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull  
To keep the shady parlour cool,  
Yet he will find a chink or two  
To slip his golden fingers through.

Meantime his golden face around  
He bares to all the garden ground,  
And sheds a warm and glittering look  
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,  
Round the bright air with footing true,  
To please the child, to paint the rose,  
The gardener of the World, he goes.

-- from "Summer Sun", Robert Louis Stevenson

### The Summer Sun Shone Round Me

The summer sun shone round me,  
The folded valley lay  
In a stream of sun and odour,  
That sultry summer day.

The tall trees stood in the sunlight  
As still as still could be,  
But the deep grass sighed and rustled  
And bowed and beckoned me.

The deep grass moved and whispered  
And bowed and brushed my face.  
It whispered in the sunshine:  
"The winter comes apace."

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

*Commissioned by the New Hampshire Master Chorale, Dan Perkins, Music Director  
Written for Emily Jaworski and the NHMC  
To Dan Perkins, a bright light through twenty winters*

# Solstices

Jonathan Santore

## Recitative: I Have News for You

Angrily; sarcastically ( $\text{♩} = 48$ )

molto rit. -----

The musical score consists of ten staves. From top to bottom, the instruments are: Vibraphone, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, Piano (split into treble and bass staves), Mezzo-Soprano, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The vocal parts sing the recitative "I have news for you, for you: The". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. Below the vocal parts, the score continues with Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The violins play sustained notes. The viola, cello, and double bass provide harmonic support with sustained notes and slurs. The score is set in common time (indicated by a '4') and 3/2 time (indicated by a '3'). The tempo is indicated as 'Angrily; sarcastically ( $\text{♩} = 48$ )' and 'molto rit. -----'. A large diagonal watermark reading 'REVIEW COPY ONLY' and 'DO NOT DUPLICATE!' is overlaid across the page.

Defeatedly ( $\text{♩} = 48$ ) Sing, Cuccu  
rall. - - - - - Excitedly ( $\text{♩} = 144$ )

Vib. 18 hard mallets motor off (con ped.) 20

Perc. 1 18 mf Temple Blocks

Perc. 2 Concert Toms

Pno. 18 mf

Pno. 18 mf (con ped.)

Defeatedly ( $\text{♩} = 48$ ) Excitedly ( $\text{♩} = 144$ )

Vln. I 18 rall. 20

Vln. II

Vla. (div.) (unis.)

Vc. mp p sub.mf pp mf

D.B. mp p sub.mf pp mf

23

Vib.

Tambourine

Perc. 3

p ff

23

Pno.

T *mp*

B

Su - mer is i - cu - men in, Lhu - de, lhu - de sing, cuc - cu;

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

D.B. *pp* *mp*

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26

T

Grow - eth sed\_\_ and blow - eth med, And springth the wo - de nu; Sing, cuc - cu!

B

Grow - eth sed\_\_ and blow - eth med, And springth the wo - de nu; Sing, cuc - cu!

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

30

Vib. 29 (non ped.) *f*

Perc. 1 29 *mp* *f*

Perc. 2 *mp* *f* *ff*

Perc. 3 *p* *ff* *f*

Pno. 29 (non ped.) *f*

S 29 *f* Su - mer is i - cu - men in, Lhu - de, lhu - de sing, cuc - cu;

A 29 *f* Su - mer is i - cu - men in, Lhu - de, lhu - de sing, cuc - cu;

T 29 *f* Su - mer is i - cu - men in, Lhu - de, lhu - de sing, cuc - cu;

B 29 *f* Su - mer is i - cu - men in, Lhu - de, lhu - de sing, cuc - cu;

Vln. I 29 *f*

Vln. II 29

Vla. 29

Vc. 29

D.B. 29



## The Gardener of the World

Vib. 50 > > > >

Perc. 1 50 > > > > sub. *mf*

Perc. 2 > > > > sub. *mf*

Perc. 3 > > > > sub. *mf*

Pno. 50 > > > >

S > > > > sub. *mf*  
Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

A > > > > sub. *mf*  
Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

T > > > >  
8 Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

B > > > >  
Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

Vln. I 50 > > > >

Vln. II > > > >

Vla. > > > >

Vc. > > > >

D.B. > > > >

53

Vib. 

Perc. 1 

Perc. 2 

Perc. 3 

Mezzo 

*mf* (Lovingly; expansively)

Great is the sun, \_\_\_\_\_ and wide \_\_\_\_\_ he

S 

Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

A 

Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

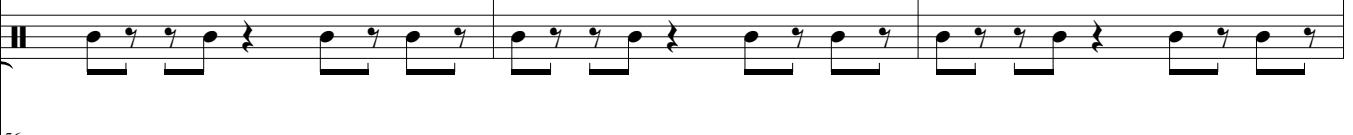
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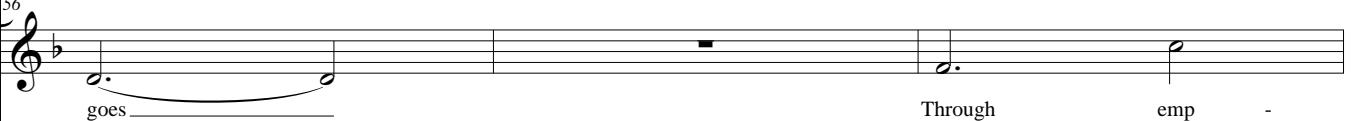
56

Vib. 

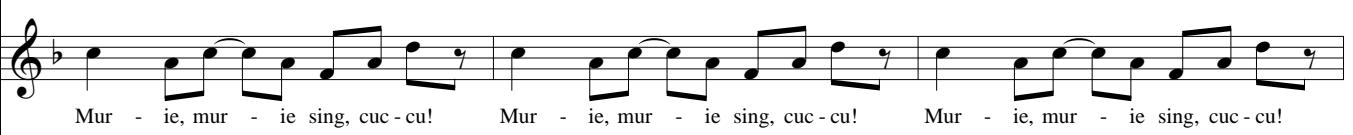
Perc. 1 

Perc. 2 

Perc. 3 

Mezzo 

goes - Through emp -

S 

Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

A 

Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu! Mur - ie, mur - ie sing, cuc - cu!

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Vib. 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Perc. 1 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Perc. 2  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Perc. 3  $\frac{12}{8}$  pp ff pp

Pno. 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Mezzo 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  2 ff To please the child, to paint the rose,

Vln. I 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Vln. II 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Vla. 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

Vc. 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

D.B. 92  $\frac{12}{8}$  f

## The Summer Sun Shone Round Me

molto rit. - - - - -

In humid stillness ( $\text{♩} = 52$ )

95 Vib.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$  motor on  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Perc. 1  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

Perc. 2  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Perc. 3  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$  Tambourine  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

Pno.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Mezzo  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *mp*  
The gard'-ner of the World, he goes.

S  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *mp*  
The sum-mer sun shone round me,

A  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  The sum-mer sun shone round me,

T  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  The sum-mer sun shone round me,

B  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  The sum-mer sun shone round me,

Vln. I  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p* sul E (sounding 15ma)

Vln. II  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  sul D (sounding 15ma)

Vla.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  sul G (sounding 15ma)

Vc.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p* (sounding 8va) sul A

D.B.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

molto rit.  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  In humid stillness ( $\text{♩} = 52$ )

97  $\frac{12}{8}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

99

Vib.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

S

A

T

B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

The fol-ded val-ley lay In a stream of sun and o - dour, That

The fol-ded val-ley lay In a stream of sun and o - dour, That

The fol-ded val-ley lay In a stream of sun and o - dour, That

The fol-ded val-ley lay In a stream of sun and o - dour, That

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123

Vib. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3 *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Mezzo Great is the sun! *mf*

S The summer sun shone

A The summer sun shone

T The summer sun shone

B The summer sun shone

123

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

poco rall.

126 Vib. *p* (non dim.)

126 Perc. 1 *p* (non dim.)

Perc. 2 *p* (non dim.)

Perc. 3 *p* (non dim.)

126 Pno. *p* (non dim.)

126 Mezzo *mp* *p* *pp*  
Great is the sun!

S round me.

A round me.

T round me.

B round me.

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Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

poco rall.