

for Charles Bruffy and the Kansas City Chorale

# A Song of Joys

for SSAATTBB Chorus unaccompanied

Walt Whitman  
(1819–1892)  
N. O., alt.

Nick Omiccioli  
(b. 1982)

**Maestoso e gioioso** ♩ = 72

**Soprano**  
*f* Ju - bi - lant, ju - bi - lant! O to sing the most *fp* ju - bi - lant song! *f*

**Alto**  
*f* Ju - bi - lant, ju - bi - lant! O to sing the most *fp* ju - bi - lant song! *f*

**Tenor**  
*f* Ju - bi - lant, ju - bi - lant! O to sing the most *fp* ju - bi - lant song! *f*

**Bass**  
*f* Ju - bi - lant, ju - bi - lant! O to sing the most *fp* ju - bi - lant song! *f*

**Keyboard**  
 (for rehearsal only)

**Maestoso e gioioso** ♩ = 72

5 *unis.* Full of mu - sic, full of joy, Full of con - cord \_\_\_\_\_ and har - mo - ny! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf unis.* For the

A *unis.* Full of mu - sic, full of joy, Full of con - cord and har - mo - ny! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf unis.* For the

T *unis.* Full of mu - sic, full of joy, Full of con - cord \_\_\_\_\_ and har - mo - ny! \_\_\_\_\_

B *unis.* Full of mu - sic, full of joy, Full of con - cord and har - mo - ny! \_\_\_\_\_

9 *mf unis.* voic - es of an - i - mals \_\_\_\_\_ For the swift - ness and ba - lance of fish.

A *mf unis.* voic - es of an - i - mals \_\_\_\_\_ For the swift - ness and ba - lance of fish.

T *mf unis.* For the swift - ness and ba - lance of fish. \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf unis.* For the swift - ness and ba - lance of fish. \_\_\_\_\_

13

S 1 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_ For the

S 2 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

A 2 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

T 1 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

T 2 Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

B 1 Drop - ping of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

B 2 Drop - ping of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_

(S & A)

(T & B)

The image shows a page of a musical score for a choir. It features eight vocal staves (S 1, S 2, A 1, A 2, T 1, T 2, B 1, B 2) and two piano accompaniment staves (S & A, T & B). The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: "Drop - ping \_\_\_\_\_ of rain - drops, rays \_\_\_\_\_ of sun - shine! \_\_\_\_\_ For the". Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are fermatas and slurs throughout. A large watermark "Copyrighted Material" is visible across the page.

17

S 1  
mo - tion of waves in a song, in a song,

S 2  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves, of waves in a song, in a song,

A 1  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves in a song, in a song,

A 2  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves in a song, in a song,

T 1  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves of waves in a song, in a

T 2  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves in a song, in a

B 1  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves in a song,

B 2  
*mf*  
mo - tion of waves in a song,

21

*ff* *p* *pp*

Meno mosso ♩ = 56 Sentimento ♩ = 72

S 1 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back,

S 2 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back,

A 1 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back,

A 2 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back,

T 1 song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back,

T 2 song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! in a song! To go back,

B 1 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back \_\_\_\_\_

B 2 \_\_\_\_\_ in a song, \_\_\_\_\_ in a song! To go back \_\_\_\_\_

Meno mosso ♩ = 56 Sentimento ♩ = 72

Più mosso

26

S where I was born, to go back, where I was born To hear

A where I was born, to go back, where I was born To hear

T where I was born, to go back, where I was born To

B to the place, was born, to the place where I was born To

*p mp mf*

*p mp mf*

*p mp mf*

*p mp mf unis.*

Più mosso

32

S the birds sing once more to go back

A the birds sing once more O to go back

T hear the birds sing once more O to go back

B hear the birds sing once more O to go back

*sub. p mp lunga rit. lunga*

*sub. p mp (unis.)*

*sub. p mp unis.*

*sub. p mp unis.*

*sub. p mp*

*lunga rit. lunga*

**Maestoso e gioioso***a tempo*

38 *mp cresc. poco a poco*

S *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
O to come a-live!

A *pp cresc. poco a poco*  
O to come a-live, — O to come a-live, — O to come a-live, — O to

T *pp cresc. poco a poco*  
O to come a-live, — O to come a-live, — O to come a-live, — O to come a-live!

B *mp*  
O to

**Maestoso e gioioso**  
*a tempo*

43

S *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
— O to clap your hands! — O to sing and dance! — O to shout, O to shout, O to shout, O to shout, to

A *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
come a-live! — O to clap your hands! — O to sing and dance! — O to shout, O to shout, O to shout, to

T *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
— O to clap your hands! — O to sing and dance! — O to shout, O to shout, — shout, — shout, to

B *mp cresc. poco a poco*  
come a-live! — O to clap your hands! — O to sing and dance! — O to shout, — shout, — shout, to

47 *f*

S 1 shout, \_\_\_\_\_ shout! \_\_\_\_\_ O to come \_\_\_\_\_ a - live! To e-

S 2 shout, shout, shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come \_\_\_\_\_ a - live! To e-

A 1 shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come \_\_\_\_\_ a - live! To e-

A 2 shout, shout, shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come \_\_\_\_\_ a - live! To e-

T 1 shout, \_\_\_\_\_ shout! \_\_\_\_\_ O to come a - live!

T 2 shout, shout, shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come a - live!

B 1 shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come a - live! \_\_\_\_\_

B 2 shout, shout, shout, shout, shout, shout! O to come a - live!

(S & A)

(T & B)



51

S  
merge and be of the sky! \_\_\_\_ Of the sun \_\_\_\_ and moon,

A  
merge and be of the sky! \_\_\_\_ Of the sun \_\_\_\_ and moon,

T  
Of the sun and moon, as one of them

B  
Of the sun and moon, as one of them

54

S  
as \_\_\_\_ one of them Roll - ing of thun - der, darts \_\_\_\_ of light - ning!

A  
as \_\_\_\_ one of them Roll - ing of thun - der, darts \_\_\_\_ of light - ning!

T  
Roll - ing of thun - - er, darts \_\_\_\_ of light - ning!

B  
Roll - ing of thun - - der, darts \_\_\_\_ of light - ning!

57 *mp* *f*

S Fly - ing of clouds! O to have life hence - forth a po - em of

A Fly - ing of clouds! O to have life hence - forth a po - em of

T Fly - ing of clouds! O to have life hence - forth a po - em of

B Fly - ing of clouds! O to have life hence - forth a po - em of

60

Sop. Solo new joys! As we sing the most ju - bi - lant

S new joys! *unis.* As we sing the most ju - bi - lant

A new joys! *unis.* As we sing the most ju - bi - lant

T new joys! *unis.* As we sing the most ju - bi - lant

B new joys! *unis.* As we sing the most ju - bi - lant

(SATB & solo)

63 *rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

Sop. Solo  
the most ju - bi - lant song — of joy! O to shout!

S  
the most ju - bi - lant song — of joy! O to shout!

A  
the most ju - bi - lant song — of joy! O to shout!

T  
the most ju - bi - lant song — of joy! O to shout!

B  
the most ju - bi - lant song — of joy! O to shout!

*rit.* *a tempo*

2008 | rev. 2011 | ca. 3:15

**Text**

Jubilant! Jubilant!  
O to sing the most jubilant song!  
Full of music - full of joy  
Full of concord and harmony!  
For the voices of animals  
For the swiftness and balance of fish  
Dropping of raindrops - rays of sunshine  
For the motion of waves in a song!  
O to go back to the place where I was born  
To hear the birds sing once more  
O to come alive!  
O to sing and dance!  
O to clap your hands!  
O to shout!  
To emerge and be of the sky  
Of the sun and moon, as one of them  
Rolling of thunder - darts of lightning - flying of clouds  
O to have like henceforth a poem of new joys!  
...as we sing the most jubilant song of joy!

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)  
Adapted by Nick Omiccioli

**Program Notes**

*A Song of Joys* (2008/rev. 2011) was composed for the Kansas City Chorale and given its first performance in March of 2009. The newly revised version was presented by the Simon Carrington Chamber Singers in June 2011. I was first turned-on to Walt Whitman through Norman Dello Joio's own adaptation of *A Song of Joys* in *A Jubilant Song* (1946). After hearing the work, I immediately sought out the original text which is found in a collection of Whitman's poems titled *Leaves of Grass*. *A Song of Joys* is a vast description of all of life's—and death's—joys, ranging from nature, love, and nostalgia, to more specific things like being a farmer, a soldier, mother, and reminiscing of catching lobsters by boiling them until they turn red. All of these ingredients—and many more—contribute to Whitman's jubilant song. The poem itself is quite long and to set it entirely would be quite an undertaking. For my adaption, I tried to select lines from the text that summed-up Whitman's message, which is uplifting and inspirational.

—Nick Omiccioli

**Nick Omiccioli**

For biographical information about the composer, please visit his website.  
[www.nicholasomiccioli.com](http://www.nicholasomiccioli.com)

**National Collegiate Choral Organization**

For more information about NCCO, please visit their website. [www.ncco-usa.org](http://www.ncco-usa.org)

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