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RATAY

The Three Windows

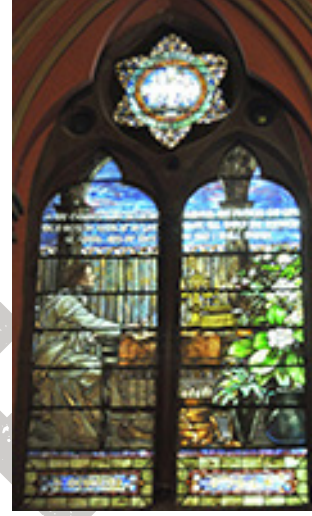
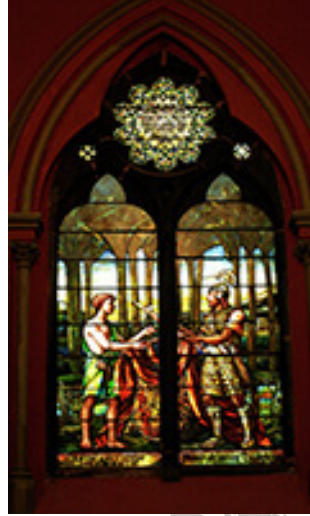
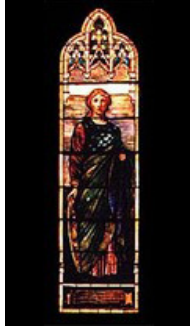
three songs based on stained glass windows for mixed chorus,
narrator and alto flute

Choral Score



Notes:

These three pieces were conceived together as part of a concert to take place at the Church of the Covenant in Boston, Massachusetts which houses the largest and best preserved collection of ecclesiastical Tiffany windows in the United States. The three windows represented in this work are Deborah, David and Jonathan: Love and St. Augustine. The three pieces may be presented in any order.



The Song of Deborah

Judges 5: 3, 5, 7, 11-12, 20, 24-27, 31

“Hear, O kings! Listen, O rulers!
I will sing to the Lord;
I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.

The mountains quaked before the Lord,
this very Sinai, before the Lord God of Israel.

Village life ceased. It ceased
until I, Deborah, arose;
I arose like a mother in Israel.

“Then the people of the Lord
go down to the gates.

Awake, awake, Deborah!
Awake, awake, sing a song!
Stand up, Barak,
and capture your prisoners, son of Abinoam!

“The survivors
came down to the nobles;
the people of the Lord
came down for me against the mighty.

From the heavens the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

“Most blessed of women is Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.

He asked for water, she gave him milk.
In a magnificent bowl she brought cream.

Her hand on a tent peg,
her right hand on a workman’s hammer;
she struck Sisera, she crushed his skull,
she shattered and pierced his temple.

Between her feet he sank, he fell, he lay;
between her feet he sank, he fell;
where he sank, there he fell, overpowered.

“May all Your enemies perish like this, O Lord!
But may those who love Him rise like the sun
when it rises in full strength.”

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

2 Samuel 1:10-27

Your splendor, O Israel, has been slain upon your hills.

How the mighty ones have fallen.

Do not report it in Gath,
do not announce it in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
or the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

O mountains of Gilboa,
may there be no rain or dew upon you
or your bountiful fields;
for there the shield of the mighty was defiled!
The shield of Saul is no longer anointed with oil.

From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor did the sword of Saul return empty.

Saul and Jonathan,
beloved and delightful,
neither in life nor death will they be separated.
They were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you in scarlet and jewels,
who adorned your garments with gold jewelry.

How the mighty ones have fallen in the midst of battle!
Jonathan was slain on your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
you were very dear to me;
your love was more remarkable than the love of women.

How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war have perished.

The Ladder of St. Augustine

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Saint Augustine! well hast thou said,
That of our vices we can frame
A ladder, if we will but tread
Beneath our feet each deed of shame!

All common things, each day's events,
That with the hour begin and end,
Our pleasures and our discontents,
Are rounds by which we may ascend.

The low desire, the base design,
That makes another's virtues less;
The revel of the ruddy wine,
And all occasions of excess;

The longing for ignoble things;
The strife for triumph more than truth;
The hardening of the heart, that brings
Irreverence for the dreams of youth;

All thoughts of ill; all evil deeds,
That have their root in thoughts of ill;
Whatever hinders or impedes
The action of the nobler will; —

All these must first be trampled down
Beneath our feet, if we would gain
In the bright fields of fair renown
The right of eminent domain.

We have not wings, we cannot soar;
But we have feet to scale and climb
By slow degrees, by more and more,
The cloudy summits of our time.

The mighty pyramids of stone
That wedge-like cleave the desert airs,
When nearer seen, and better known,
Are but gigantic flights of stairs.

The distant mountains, that uprear
Their solid bastions to the skies,
Are crossed by pathways, that appear
As we to higher levels rise.

The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

Standing on what too long we bore
With shoulders bent and downcast eyes,
We may discern — unseen before —
A path to higher destinies,

Nor deem the irrevocable Past
As wholly wasted, wholly vain,
If, rising on its wrecks, at last
To something nobler we attain.

1. The Song of Deborah

adapted from Judges 5

Beth Ratay

Majestic ♩ = 56

Soprano 1 *f* Hear, o kings, Lis-ten o ru-lers! I will sing to the Lord. *mp* I will sing

Soprano 2 *f* Hear, o kings, Lis-ten o ru-lers! I will sing to the Lord.

Alto *f* Hear, o kings, Lis-ten o ru-lers! I will sing to the Lord.

Piano (for rehearsal only) *f* **Majestic** ♩ = 56 *mp*

6

S. I *mf* praise to the Lord God of Is - ra - el. The

S. II *mp* I will sing praise to the Lord God of Is - ra - el. The

A. *mp* I will sing praise to the Lord God of Is - ra - el. The

Pno. *mf*

10 **Withdrawn** ♩ = 84

S. I
 moun-tains quaked be - fore the Lord. Vil-lage life ceased. It ceased_

S. II
 moun-tains quaked be - fore the Lord. Vil-lage life ceased. It ceased_ un-til

A.
 moun-tains quaked be - fore the Lord. Vil-lage life ceased. It ceased_

Pno.

Withdrawn ♩ = 84

16 **Tempo I** ♩ = 56

S. II
 I De - bo - rah I a - rose like a mo-ther in

A.
 a - rose; I a - rose like a mo-ther in

Pno.

Tempo I ♩ = 56

Tempo II ♩ = 84

22

S. I *mp* in Is-ra-el. Then the peo-ple of the Lord go down to the gates.

S. II *poco f mp* Is-ra-el, in Is-ra-el. Then the peo-ple go down.

A. *poco f mp* Is-ra-el, in Is-ra-el. Then the peo-ple go down.

Pno. *poco f mp*

Tempo II ♩ = 84

29

S. I *mf f* A-wake, a-wake De-bo-rah! A-wake a-wake and

S. II *mf f* A-wake, a-wake De-bo-rah! A-wake a-wake and

A. *mf f* A-wake, a-wake De-bo-rah! A-wake a-wake and

Pno. *mf f*

35

S. I
sing a song! Then the peo-ple came down a-against the

S. II
sing a song! Then the peo-ple came down a-against the

A.
sing a song! Then the peo-ple of the Lord came down for me a-against the

Pno.

41

S. I
might-y. A- wake, a- wake, De - bo - rah! A - wake, a- wake, and

S. II
might-y. A- wake, a- wake, De - bo - rah! A - wake, a- wake, and

A.
might-y. A- wake, a- wake, De - bo - rah! A - wake, a- wake, and

Pno.

Tempo I ♩ = 56

47

S. I *poco f marcato*
sing — a song! From the hea-vens the stars fought, from their cours-es they

S. II *poco f marcato*
sing — a song! From the hea-vens the stars fought, from their cours-es they

A. *poco f marcato*
sing — a song! From the hea-vens the stars fought, from their cours-es they

Pno. *Tempo I ♩ = 56 marcato*
poco f

52

S. I *mp bright and pure, legato*
fought a-gainst Si - se - ra. Then, ——— most bless-ed of wo-men Ja -

S. II *mp bright and pure, legato*
fought a-gainst Si - se - ra. Then, De-bo-rah sent, most bless-ed of wo-men Ja -

A. *mp bright and pure, legato*
fought a-gainst Si - se - ra. Then ——— most bless-ed of wo-men Ja -

Pno. *bright and pure, legato*
mp

56 *f suddenly harsh and clipped*

S. I
-el She struck Si-se - ra she crushed his skull she shatt-ered and pierced his

S. II
-el She struck Si-se - ra she crushed his skull she shatt-ered and pierced his

A.
-el She struck Si-se - ra she crushed his skull she shatt-ered and pierced his

Pno.
suddenly harsh and clipped
f

61 *mp legato* *rit.* *p*

S. I
tem-ple. Be - tween her feet he sank, he fell, he lay, o - ver -

S. II
tem-ple. Be - tween her feet he sank, he fell, he lay, o - ver -

A.
tem-ple. Be - tween her feet he sank, he fell, he lay, o - ver -

Pno.
legato *mp* *rit.* *p*

Tempo I ♩ = 56

molto accel.

Tempo II ♩ = 84

65

S. I
-pow-ered. May all your en-e-mies per-ish like this, O Lord! But may those who

S. II
pow-ered. May all your en-e-mies per-ish like this, O Lord! But may those who

A.
-pow-ered. May all your en-e-mies per-ish like this, O Lord! But may those who

Pno.

Tempo I ♩ = 56
molto accel.

Tempo II ♩ = 84

f *mp*

71

S. I
love him rise like the sun, in strength.

S. II
love him rise like the sun, when it ris - es in full strength.

A.
love him rise like the sun, when it ris - es in full strength.

Pno.

ff *poco rit.*

ff *poco rit.*

2. David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

2 Samuel 1:19-27

Slow
ad libitum

Alto Flute
(written in C)

p *mp* *pp*

The narration should always begin after the held note is sounded.

Narrator

Your splendor,
O Israel, | has been slain
upon your hills. | How the
mighty ones | have fallen. |

4

mp *mf*

Do not report
it in Gath, | do not announce it in
the streets of Ashkelon, | lest the daughters of
the Philistines rejoice, |

7

poco f

or the daughters of the
uncircumcised exult. | O mountains
of Gilboa, | may there be no rain
or dew upon you or
your bountiful fields

10

rfp *p* *mp*

for there the shield of
the mighty was defiled! | The shield of Saul is no
longer anointed with oil. || From the blood
of the slain, |

13

pp *mf* *f*

from the fat
of the mighty, | the bow of Jonathan,
did not turn back, | nor did the sword of
Saul return empty. |

16 *non. vib. to vib.* *non. vib. to vib.* *non. vib. to vib.* *light*

pp *mp* *poco f* *p*

|| Saul and Jonathan, | beloved and delightful, | neither in life nor death | They were swifter |
will they be separated. | will they be separated. | than eagles, |

20

f *mp* *mf*

|| they were stronger | O daughters of Israel, | who clothed you |
than lions. | weep over Saul, | in scarlet and jewels, |

23

p *ff* *mf*

|| who adorned your | How the mighty ones have | Jonathan was slain | I am distressed | my brother,
garments with | fallen in the midst of battle! | on your high places. | for you, | Jonathan,
gold jewelry. |

28

mp *p* *pp* *ppp*

|| you were very | your love was more | How the mighty | and the weapons
dear to me; | remarkable than the | have fallen, | of war have perished. ||
love of women. |

3. The Ladder of St. Augustine

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Regal ♩ = 66 **Faster** ♩ = 88

f marcato // *mp legato*

Soprano
Saint Aug-us- tine! well hast thou said _____

f marcato // *mp legato*

Alto
Saint Aug-us- tine! well hast thou said _____

f marcato // *mp legato*

Tenor
Saint Aug-us- tine! that of our vi - ces we can build a

f marcato // *mp legato*

Bass
Saint Aug-us- tine! that of our vi - ces we can build a

Regal ♩ = 66 **Faster** ♩ = 88

f marcato // *mp legato*

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

6

p cresc. *mf* //

If we will but tread be - neath our feet, each deed_ of shame.

p cresc. *mf* //

If we will but tread be - neath our feet, each deed of shame.

p cresc. *mf* //

lad - der If we will but tread be - neath our feet, each deed_ of shame.

p cresc. *mf* //

lad - der If we will but tread be - neath our feet, each deed_ of shame.

p cresc. *mf* //

14

p ✓ *mp* ✓

We have not wings, we can - not soar; But we have feet to scale_ and climb

p ✓ *mp* ✓

We have not wings, we can - not soar; But we have feet to scale and climb

p ✓ *mp* ✓

We have not wings, we can - not soar; But we have feet to scale and climb

p ✓ *mp* ✓

We have not wings, we can - not soar; But we have feet to scale_ and climb

p ✓ *mp* ✓

mf *cresc.* *poco f*

By slow de-grees, by more and more, the clou-dy sum-mits of our time.

mf *cresc.* *poco f*

By slow de-grees, by more and more, the clou-dy sum-mits of our time.

mf *cresc.* *poco f*

By slow de-grees, by more and more, the clou-dy sum-mits of our time.

mf *cresc.* *poco f*

By slow de-grees, by more and more, the clou-dy sum-mits of our time.

mf *cresc.* *poco f*

By slow de-grees, by more and more, the clou-dy sum-mits of our time.

mp *mf* *p*

The migh-ty py-ra-mids of stone That wedge-like cleave the des-ert airs, When near-er

mp *mf* *p*

Migh-ty py-ra-mids of stone That wedge-like cleave the des-ert airs, When near-er

mp

Migh-ty py-ra-mids of stone

mp

Migh-ty py-ra-mids of stone

mp *mf* *p*

Migh-ty py-ra-mids of stone

39

seen, Are but gi-gan-tic flights of stairs. The

seen, Are but gi-gan-tic flights of stairs.

p and bet-ter known, gi-gan-tic flights of stairs. The *pp*

p and bet-ter known, gi-gan-tic flights of stairs. *mf*

p *mf* *pp*

46

dis-tant moun-tains, to the skies, Are

dis-tant moun-tains, to the skies, Are

dis-tant moun-tains, to the skies, Are

p becoming more *marcato* that up-rear Their so-lid bas-ti-ons Are *mf*

p becoming more *marcato* *mp* *mf*

51 *f marcato* ————— *più f* *poco f*
55 **Maestoso** ♩=56

crossed by path- ways, that ap - pear As we to high-er le - vels rise. Stand-ing on what too

crossed by path- ways, that ap - pear As we to high-er le - vels rise. Stand-ing on what too

crossed by path- ways, that ap - pear As we to high-er le - vels rise. Stand-ing on what too

crossed by path- ways, that ap - pear As we to high-er le - vels rise. Stand-ing on what too

crossed by path- ways, that ap - pear As we to high-er le - vels rise. Stand-ing on what too

f marcato ————— *più f* *poco f*

f marcato ————— *più f* *poco f*

f marcato ————— *più f* *poco f*

f marcato ————— *più f* *poco f*

f marcato ————— *più f* *poco f*

Maestoso ♩=56

56

long we bore With shoul- ders bent and down- cast eyes, We may dis- cern

long we bore With shoul- ders bent and down- cast eyes, We may dis- cern

long we bore With shoul- ders bent and down- cast eyes, un- seen be-

long we bore With shoul- ders bent and down- cast eyes, un- seen be-

60

mp

a path to high-er des-ti-nies, Nor deem the ir-re-voc-a-ble Past As whol-ly wast-ed, whol-ly

mp

a path to high-er des-ti-nies, Nor deem the ir-re-voc-a-ble Past As whol-ly wast-ed, whol-ly

mp

-fore a path to high-er des-ti-nies, Nor deem the ir-re-voc-a-ble Past As whol-ly wast-ed, whol-ly

mp

-fore a path to high-er des-ti-nies, Nor deem the ir-re-voc-a-ble Past As whol-ly wast-ed, whol-ly

mp

poco accel.

Regal ♩ = 66 *poco rit.*

65

p *ff* *mf legato*

vain, If, ri-sing on its wrecks, at last, To some-thing no-bler we at-tain.

p *ff* *mf legato*

vain, If, ri-sing, at last, To some-thing no-bler we at-tain.

p *ff* *mf legato*

vain, If, ri-sing, at last, To some-thing no-bler we at-tain.

p *ff* *mf legato*

vain, If, ri-sing, at last, To some-thing no-bler we at-tain.

poco accel. *Regal ♩ = 66* *poco rit.* *legato*