

*Oskar Österling*

# *The Snowflake*

*Carol for SATB-choir A Cappella*

Text: Margaret E. Sangster

(2020)

## "The Snowflake"

It was a little snowflake  
With tiny winglets furled;  
Its warm cloud-mother held it fast  
Above the sleeping world.  
All night the wild winds blustered  
And blew o'er land and sea;  
But the little snowflake cuddled close,  
As safe as safe could be.'

Then came the cold gray morning,  
And the great cloud-mother said:  
"Now every little snowflake  
Must proudly lift its head,  
And through the air go sailing  
Till it finds a place to alight,  
For I must weave a coverlet  
To clothe the world in white".

The little snowflake fluttered,  
And gave a wee, wee sigh;  
But fifty million other flakes  
Came softly floating by;  
And the wise cloud-mothers sent them  
To keep the world's bread warm  
Through many a winter sunset,  
And many a night of storm.

*-Margaret E. Sangster*

### **note from the composer:**

This short carol is the first piece of music I ever wrote for choir, in the fall of 2020. I had just started seriously studying composition that semester, and was eager to try my hand at choral writing. Fall was turning to winter, and I felt rather in the mood to write something to fit the season. After some scavenging online I came upon this charming poem by Margaret E. Sangster, and luckily it fit the Delius/Warlock inspired melody I had begun composing in my head during that time.

While this piece bears traces of my inexperience at the time, and stronger still, the traces of my then inspiration, Peter Warlock, it is still dear to me as it started me on my path of choral writing; a path I tread gladly to this day, and hope to walk for many years to come.

So yes, while the text-setting is perhaps clunky at times, and the tessitura a bit high for our poor tenors and sopranos, I hope that whoever finds this piece finds in it some semblance of its original intent; a light, comforting piece of music, an innocent love letter to the winter-season.

-Oskar Österling, 2023

DURATION CA. 3'00"

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To Peter Warlock (with Admiration)  
for inspiring my love of writing choral music (with Apologies)

# The Snowflake

Margaret E. Sangster

Oskar Österling

Lento ♩ = 52

Soprano  
It was a lit - tle snow flake with ti - ny wing lets

Alto  
It was a lit - tle snow - flake with ti - ny wing - lets

Tenor  
It was a lit - tle snow - flake with ti - ny wing - lets

Bass  
It was a lit - tle snow - flake with ti - ny wing lets

5  
S  
furled Its warm cloud mo - ther held it fast a -

A  
furled Its warm cloud mo - ther held it fast a -

T  
furled Its warm cloud mo - ther held it fast a -

B  
furled Its warm cloud mo - ther held it fast a -

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## The Snowflake

8

S  
bove the sleep - ing world

A  
bove the sleep - ing world

T  
8  
bove the sleep - ing world All night the wild winds blus - tered and blew o - ver land and sea!

B  
bove the sleep - ing world. All night the wild winds blus - tered and blew o - ver land and sea!

13

S  
Land and sea! But the ti - ny snow - flake cudd - led close as safe as sa - fe can be Then

A  
Land and sea! But the ti - ny snow - flake cudd - led close as safe as sa - fe can be Then

T  
8  
Land and sea! But the ti - ny snow - flake cudd - led close as safe as sa - fe can be Then

B  
Land and sea! But the ti - ny snow - flake cudd - led close as safe as safe can be Then

18

S  
came the cold grey mor - ning and the great cloud moth - er

A  
came the cold grey mor - ning and the great cloud moth - er

T  
8  
came the cold grey mor - ning and the great cloud moth - er

B  
came the cold grey mor - ning and the great cloud moth - er

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21

S said; Now eve - ry lit - tle snow - flake must proud - ly lift its lit - tle

A said Now eve - ry lit - tle snow - flake must proud - ly lift its lit - tle

T said: Now eve - ry lit - tle snow - flake must proud - ly lift its lit - tle

B said: Now eve - ry lit - tle snow - flake must proud - ly lift its lit - tle

25

S head. And through the air go sail - ing till it finds a place to a - light!

A head And through the air go sail - ing till it finds a place to a - light

T head

B head

29

S Place to a - light! For I must weave a cov - er - let to

A Place to a - light! For I must weave a cov - er - let to

T Place to a - light! For I must weave a co - ver - let to

B Place to a - light! For I must weave a co - ver - let to

## The Snowflake

32

S  
clothe the world in white! The lit - tle snow - flake

A  
clothe the world in white! The lit - tle snow - flake

T  
8  
clothe the world in white! Ooh \_\_\_\_\_

B  
clothe the world in white

35

S  
flut - tered and gave a wee - wee sigh - But

A  
flut - tered and gave a wee wee sigh But

T  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_ (ooh) \_\_\_\_\_ But

B  
\_\_\_\_\_ But

38

S  
fif - ty mil - lion oth - er flakes came sof - tly float - ing

A  
fift - y mil - lion oth - er flakes came soft - ly float - ing

T  
8  
fif - ty mil - lion oth - er flakes came soft - ly float - ing

B  
fif - ty mil - lion oth - er flakes came soft - ly float - ing \_\_\_\_\_

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41 *ff* *p*

S by! And the wise cloud moth - ers sent them to keep the worlds bread

A *ff* *p*

A by! And the wise cloud moth - ers sent them to keep the worlds bread

T *ff* *p*

T by! And the wise cloud moth - ers sent them to keep the worlds bread

B *ff* *p*

B by! And the wise cloud moth - ers sent them to keep the worlds bread

45 *f* *subito p*

S warm! Through man - y a win - ter sun - set and ma - ny a night of storm

A *f* *subito p*

A warm! \_\_\_\_\_ man - y a win - ter sun - set and ma - ny a night of storm

T *f* *subito p*

T warm! \_\_\_\_\_ man - y a win - ter sun set and ma - ny a night of storm

B *f* *subito p*

B warm! \_\_\_\_\_ man - y a win - er sun - set and ma - ny a night of storm

Oskar Österling, Gärdet, 2020