

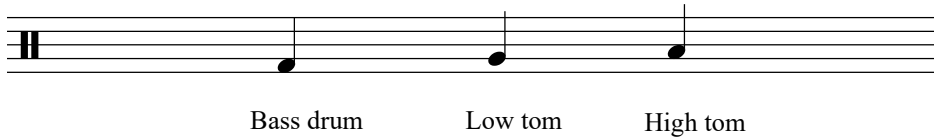
# Untamed

Commissioned by the May Festival for the *Young Professionals Choral Collective*, artistic director-Danielle Cozart-Steele

For mezzo-soprano, ASL interpreter, SATB choir, piano, percussion, and a dancer

By Joanna McDonald

# Notes to Performers:



-Assign/hire dancer to act out the character of the horse for deaf audience.

-Assign/hire ASL interpreter to interpret the text alongside the soloist.

- Assign four designated members of choir to interact with dancer as directed in the score.

\*\*All page turns for the pianist (if they play off of score) are crafted for **odd numbered** pages

This project, “Untamed”, was the result of a commission from the May Festival, whose inspiration is derived from the poem, “O broncho that would not be broken”, by Vachel Lindsay. A broncho refers to an unbroken mustang, and the term, “breaking a broncho” is an expression referred to in this poem that originally meant breaking the spirit of a horse to allow riders to mount it. Although the poem slightly evokes a childlike feel or sense of innocence, I was drawn to the profundity of how the broncho’s story could represent resilience and endurance despite resistance or even abuse. I think the broncho’s character in the poem represents what it means to remain “untamed” or resilient in the face of taming, silencing forces.

Upon being given the opportunity to collaborate with conductor Danielle Cozart-Steele and deaf ASL interpreter/dancer, Arriana Bedgood for the project, I decided to shape the portrayal of the poem by giving the role of the broncho to Arriana to act out/dance while translating the poem for a non-hearing audience. Danielle often collaborates with the deaf community in her choral concerts, and so my goal became to create an inclusive, meaningful concert experience for both non-hearing and hearing audiences based on the story of the broncho.

## Text:

### Narrator:

You were born with the pride of the lords great and olden,  
who danced through the ages in corridors golden.  
In all the wide farm place the person most human.  
O broncho that would not be broken of dancing!  
The grasshoppers cheered, "Keep whirling"!

### Chorus:

Keep whirling! Keep whirling!  
Whirling, whirling, whirling!

### Narrator:

You were just a little colt sold to the farm,  
To be broken in time without fury or harm.  
Yet black crows flew past you calling, "Beware!"

### Chorus:

Beware! Caw! Beware! Caw!  
\*Pause\*  
Get her! Grab her! Go, get her! Etc.

### Narrator:

You dodged your pursuers, looking askance!  
You cantered away your last chance!  
Oh, horse killers came with snake whips!

### Chorus:

Yet you danced, you danced!

### Narrator:

Oh, the drunk drivers bled you!

### Chorus:

Yet you danced, you danced!

### Narrator:

They scourged you with hell!  
They scourged you with hell in their faces!

### Chorus:

You danced, you danced!  
Keep whirling! Keep whirling!  
Whirling, whirling!

### Narrator:

Your boyish heart broke.  
O broncho that would not be broken of dancing  
.

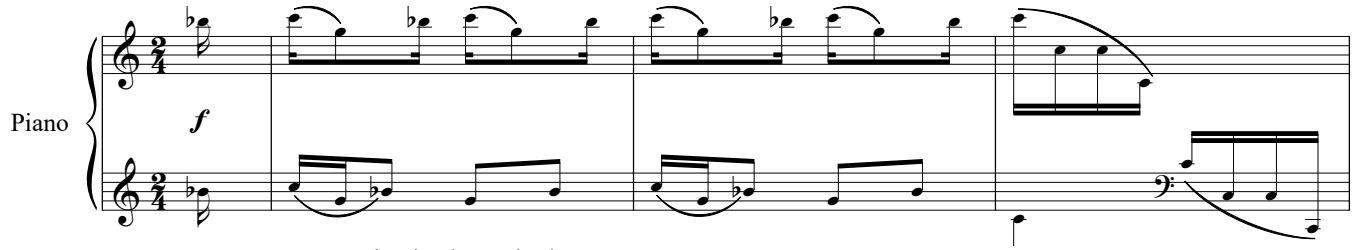
\*All text derived from Vachel Lindsay's, "O broncho that

# Untamed

Cheerful ♩ = 60

Joanna McDonald

Piano

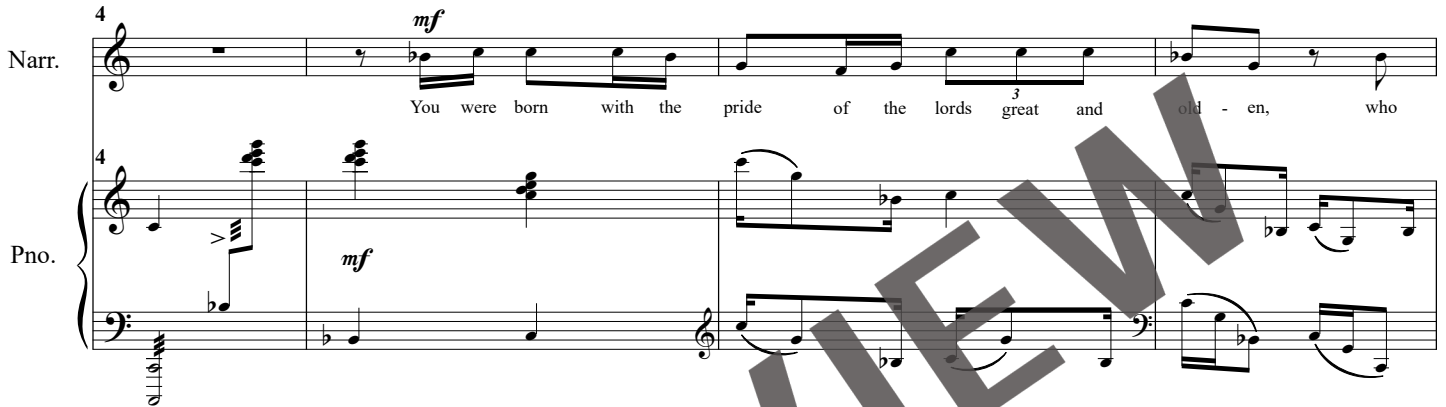


*f*

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 2/4 time. The right hand features a series of eighth-note chords, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Horse begins her solo dance.

Narr.



*mf*

4 You were born with the pride of the lords <sup>3</sup> great and old - en, who

Pno.

*mf*

The narrator's line starts at measure 4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the page.

Narr.



8 danced through the ag - es in cor - ni - dors gold - en. In all the wide farm place the per - son most

Pno.

The narrator's line continues. The piano accompaniment features a triplet in the right hand at measure 11. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the page.

Narr.



12 hu - man. O bron - cho that would not be bro - ken of dan - cing.

Pno.

The narrator's line concludes at measure 15. The piano accompaniment features a triplet in the right hand at measure 14. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the page.

# Untamed

*Accel.*

**A** Spirited ♩ = 68

Horse begins dancing more wildly.

16

Narr. *f*  
The grass hop-pers cheered, "Keep whir - ling!"

Perc. *mp* *f*

Pno. *f*

20

S *f*  
Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling!

A *f*  
Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling!

T *f*  
Keep whir - ling! Keep

B *f*  
Keep whir - ling! Keep

Perc. *f*

Pno. *f*



# Untamed

32

S  
whir - ling! — Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep

A  
— Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep

T  
Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling!

B  
— Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling,

Perc.  
3

Pno.  
32 *sfz* *sfz*

---

36

S  
whir-ling! Keep whir - ling, whir - ling! Keep - whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling, whir-ling,

A  
whir - ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling, whir - ling, whir-ling, whir-ling, whir-ling, whir-ling,

T  
Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep

B  
whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep

Perc.  
3 3 3

Pno.  
36 3 3 3



40

S  
whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!

A  
whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!

T  
whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!

B  
whir - ling! Keep whir - ling! Keep whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!

*ff*

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

Pno.  
*ff*

44

**B** *Steady* ♩ = 48

Narr.  
*mf* Happy, yet sad, as if you knew something bad was coming.  
You were just a lit - tle colt, \_\_\_\_\_ sold to the farm, \_\_\_\_\_ to be bro - ken in

Pno.  
*mf* *sfz*

48

Narr.  
time, with - out fu - ry \_\_\_\_\_ or harm. \_\_\_\_\_ Yet, black crows flew past you call - ing,

Pno.  
*sfz*

# Untamed

6

51

Narr. *Be-ware! Caw! - Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!"*

S *Caw! Caw! Caw! cacaw! cacaw! cacaw!*

A *Be - ware!*

T *Be-ware! Be - ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware!*

B *Be - ware! Be-ware!*

Perc. *p mf p p mf p*

Pno. *mp*

8va

55

Narr. *Black crows flew past you call-ing, "Be ware! Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!"*

S *cacaw! cacaw!cacaw! cacaw!cacaw! Caw!*

A *Be-ware! Be-ware!Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!*

T *Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware!Be-ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!*

B *Be-ware!Be-ware! Be - ware! Be-ware! Be - ware! Be-ware! Be - ware!*

Perc. *p mf p*

Pno. *f*

8va

59

Narr. *Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!"*

S *Caw! Caw! cacaw! cacaw! cæaw!*

A *Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware!*

T *Be - ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Beware! Beware!*

B *Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware! Be-ware!*

Perc.

Pno. *mp pp mp*

The four "men" begin to leave risers and move towards horse in step with the drum beat.

62

Narr. *p* **G.P.**

S *cacaw!*

A *Be-ware! Be-ware!*

T *Be-ware! Be-ware!*

B *Be - ware!*

Perc. *mp mf*

Pno. **G.P.**

*8va - - -*

**C** *Violent and Angry* (♩ = 72)

The 4 "men" begin to chase and attempt to rope-in horse.

Narr.

S

A

T   
 Grab her! Get her! Go, get her! Go, get her!

B   
 Grab her! Get her! Go, get her! Go, get her!

Perc.

Pno.

65

Narr.   
 You dodged your pur-su-ers, look-ing ask-ance! You

S   
 look-ing ask-ance! Be-ware!

A   
 You dodged your pur-su-ers. Be-ware! Be-ware!

T   
 Go! Get her! Yeah, grab her! Yeah! Go, get her! Get her! Go! get her!

B   
 Go! Get her! Yeah, grab her! Yeah! Go, get her! Get her! Go! get her!

Perc.

Pno.

68

71

Narr. can-tered a-way your last chance! You can-tered a-way your last chance! Last chance! Ve-ry

S Be - ware! Last chance!

A can-tered a-way your last chance! Be - ware! Last chance!

T Grab her! Go! Get her! Get her! Yeah, grab! Go, get her! Yeah! Get her! Go!

B Grab her! Go! Get her! Get her! Yeah, grab! Go, get her! Yeah! Get her! Go!

Perc.

Pno.

**D** Horse is caught and begins to struggle with 4 "men" (horse seems to have a moment of victory!)

74

Narr. last chance! Oh horse kil-lers came with snake whips! Oh

S Last chance! Oh — yet you da-need, you danced! —

A Last chance! Oh — yet you da-need, you danced! —

T Grab her! Grab her! Kil - lers! Kil-lers!

B Grab her! Grab her! Kil-lers! Kil-lers! Kil-lers!

Perc.

Pno.

# Untamed

10 (however the 4 "men" prevail)

79 *ff*

Narr. *ff*  
the drunk-dri-vers-ble-d you! They scourged you with hell! They scourged you with hell in their fa-ces!

S  
Yet you danced, you danced!

A  
Yet you danced, you danced!

T *ff*  
Oh drunk dri-vers! Oh they scourged you with hell!

B *ff*  
Oh drunk dri-vers! Oh they scourged you with hell!

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

(a plea for the horse to keep trying)

Horse begins to really struggle and lose strength.

83

Narr. *ff*  
Hell in their fa-ces! You dan-ced, you danced! Keep whir-ling! Keep

S *ff*  
You da-need! You danced! You da-need! You danced! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling, whir-ling,

A *ff*  
You da-need! You danced! You da-need! You danced! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling! Keep whir-ling, whir-ling,

T *f*  
Hell in their fa-ces! Hell in their fa-ces! Hell in their fa-ces! With hell!

B *f*  
Hell in their fa-ces! Hell in their fa-ces! Hell in their fa-ces! With hell!

Perc. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

87

Narr. *whir - ling! \_\_\_ Keep whir - ling, whir - ling!*

S *whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!* Whir - ling!

A *whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling, whir - ling!* Whir - ling!

T *With hell!*

B *With hell!*

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

90

S *mp*

A *mp*

The horse dies (she is only broken through death).

Perc. *Rit.* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

# Untamed

**E**  $\text{♩} = 50$  *Heartbroken*  
*mp*

96 *G.P.* *mf*

Narr. *mp*  
 Your boy-ish heart broke. Oh bron-cho that would not be bro-ken

S *p* *mp*  
 Lu It broke. Lu not be bro -

A *p* *mp*  
 Lu It broke. Lu Not be

T *p* *mp*  
 Lu Lu

B *p* *mp*  
 Lu Lu Lu Lu

Perc. *p*

Pno. *G.P.* (all rolls LH to RH, bottom up) *mp*

*Rit. poco a poco*

102 *p*

Narr. *p*  
 of dan - cing, of dan - cing, of dan - cing.

S *p*  
 ken of dan - cing, dan - cing, of dan - cing.

A *p*  
 bro - ken of dan - cing, of dan - cing, of dan - cing.

T *p*  
 of dan - cing, of dan - cing, of dan - cing.

B *p*  
 bro - ken of dan - cing, of dan - cing.

Pno. *p*