

Ethan Soledad

# When I Rise Up

For SATB choir with divisi., cello, and piano

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# When I Rise Up

*for SATB choir with divisi., cello, and piano*

Duration: ca. 5.5 minutes

## WHEN I RISE UP

Georgia Douglas Johnson – 1880-1966

When I rise up above the earth,  
And look down on the things that fetter me,  
I beat my wings upon the air,  
Or tranquil lie,

Surge after surge of potent strength  
Like incense comes to me  
When I rise up above the earth  
And look down upon the things that fetter me.

## Program Note

The poem “When I Rise Up,” written by notable African American poet and playwright of the Harlem Renaissance, Georgia Douglas Johnson, speaks of the author rising high above those who would attempt to hinder her. The fluttering cello and piano parts of the opening phrases depict birds as to symbolize Johnson literally soaring up to the clouds beyond the ties of the Earth. The final ending sequence calls back to the beginning when the choir repeats the phrase “When I rise,” but now it has turned into “I rise” symbolizing an immediate and almost apothecotic ascent. The final quasi-cadenza is taken up to the absolute highest note on the piano, representing Johnson’s ascension far beyond the grasp of anyone who has ever tried to impede her.

# When I Rise Up

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880 -1966)

Ethan Soledad

Violoncello

Emerging ♩ = 60

SOPRANO

ALTO

Vc.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

*f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *mf* *f*

*pp* *p*

oo oh

*pp* *p*

oo oh

*p* *fp* *3* *6* *ff* *6* *f* *p* *f*

*pp* *p*

oh

*p*

oh

*pp* *3* *6* *f*

*f* *p*

*15<sup>ma</sup>*

*f* *p*

*Led.*

7

Vc. *ff*

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Pno. *p* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *f*

Quasi cadenza,  
Bold, free

*8<sup>va</sup>*

*6* *6*

\* Ped.

9

Vc. *pp* *f*

S. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f*

B. *f*

Pno. *f* *fff*

*8<sup>va</sup>*

11

Vc. *f mp ff*

S. *p mp f p mp*  
When I rise. When I

A. *p mp f p mp*  
When I rise. When I

T. *p mp f p mp*  
When I rise. When I

B. *p mp f p mp*  
When I rise. When I

Pno. *p Led.* *Glittering 8va* 6

14

Vc. *p f mf ff mp p*

S. *mf f p mf*  
rise. When I

A. *mf f p mf*  
rise. When I

T. *mf f p mf*  
rise. When I

B. *mf f p mf*  
rise. When I

Pno. *6 3*

16

Vc. *f* *ff* *gliss.*

S. *f* *ff*

A. *f* *ff*

T. *f* *ff*

B. *f* *ff*

rise

Pno. *8va* 7 6 3

18 Pushing forward ♩ = 66 \*

Vc. *fp* *f* *tr*

S. *fp* *f*

A. *fp* *f*

T. *fp* *f*

B. *fp* *f*

up a - - bove the

up a - - bove the

up a - - bove the

up a - - bove the

Pno. *f* *3* *mp*

*8va* *Ped.* 3

20

Vc. *p* *pp*

S. *p* *pp*  
Earth, \_\_\_\_\_ And

A. *p* *pp*  
Earth, \_\_\_\_\_ And

T. *p*  
Earth, \_\_\_\_\_

B. *p*  
Earth, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *p* 7 7 7 7

23

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mf*

S. *mf* *mp* *mf*  
look down on the things that fet - ter me,

A. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*  
look down on the things that fet - ter me I

T. *mp* *mf*  
down on the things that fet - ter me,

B. *mp* *mf*  
down on the things that fet - ter me,

Pno. *mf*

\* Ped.

26

Vc. *f* *ff* *f* non vibato

S. *p* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*  
I beat my wings u-pon the air, When I rise a -

A. *f* *ff* *f*  
beat my wings u - pon the air, When I rise a -

T. *p* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*  
I beat my wings u-pon the air, When I rise

B. *p* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*  
I beat my wings up - on the air, When I rise a -

Pno. *f* *ff* *8va* *8va*  
\* *8va* *8va*



30

Vc. *p*

S. *mf*  
bove a - bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth And look down and look

A. *mf*  
bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth And look down and look

T. *mf*  
a - bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth and look look down and

B. *mf*  
bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth and look down and

Pno. *mp*  
8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup>  
8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>



48

Vc. *tr* *tr* *mp* *mf*

S. *mp* *mf*

A. *mp* *mf*

T. *mp* *mf*

B. *mp* *mf*

of po - tent strength Like in-cense comes o - ver me, When I



51

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

S. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *pp*

A. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *pp*

T. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *pp*

B. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *pp*

rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

Pno. *f* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

56

Vc. *pp*

S. things that fet - ter me oo oh

A. things that fet - ter me oo oh

T. things that fet - ter me oh

B. things that fet - ter me oh

Pno. *pp*

*ff* *p*

*ped.*

62

Vc. *mf*

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Pno. *pp* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *f*

*15<sup>ma</sup>*

3 6



12 67 *f* *ff* **Outpouring** ♩ = 72 *f*

S. rise up a-bove the Earth, And

A. rise up a-bove the Earth, And

T. rise up a-bove the Earth, And

B. rise up a-bove the Earth, And

Pno. *mf* *fff* *f*

*ped. a piacere, always keep the sound full and ringing but not too muddy*

71 *mf* *f* *ff*

S. look down on things that fet-ter me I rise I

A. look down on things that fet-ter me I rise I

T. look down on things that fet-ter me I rise I

B. look down on things that fet-ter me I rise I

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp* *fff*

*8va*

75

S. rise I rise *fff*

A. rise I rise *fff*

T. rise I rise *fff*

B. rise I rise *fff*

Pno. *mf* 3 6 3 *fff* *f* 3 6 3 *fff*

77

S. I rise *p* *pp* Hmm

A. I rise *p* *pp* Hmm

T. I rise *p* *pp* Hmm

B. I rise *p* *pp* Hmm

Pno. *f* *mf*

83

Vc. *p* 3 6

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *pp* 3 6 *ff* *pp* 8va \*

86

Vc.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *p* Quasi cadenza, Overjoyed 6 6 6 6 *Red.*



87

Vc.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

*f*

*8va*

*fff*

\*