

Ethan Soledad

When I Rise Up

For SATB choir with divisi., cello, and piano

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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 apocalyptic 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 $\text{♩} = 60$

SOPRANO

ALTO

Vc.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

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2

Vc. *mf*

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Pno.

p *mp*

f

p

f

f

f

*Quasi cadenza,
Bold, free*

** Led.*

Vc. *pp*

S. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f*

B. *f*

Pno. *f*

fff

11

Vc. When I rise When I

S. When I rise When I

A. When I rise When I

T. When I rise When I

B. When I rise When I

Pno. Glittering |

14

Vc. When I

S. rise When I

A. rise When I

T. rise When I

B. rise When I

Pno. |

16

Vc. *f* ff

S. *f* ff

A. 8 rise

T. 8 rise

B. 8 rise

Pno. 8va 6 3 7

Pushing forward $\text{♩} = 66$

Vc. fp f 5 tr tr tr 6 3 tr *

S. fp f up a - - bove the

A. fp f up a - - bove the

T. fp f up a - - bove the

B. fp f up a - - bove the

Pno. f 3 mp 8va 3 Ped.

Vc. (Measure 20) 5
p *pp*
 S. (Measure 21) *pp* [3] 4
p
 Earth,
 And
 A. (Measure 22) *pp* [3] 4
p
 Earth,
 And
 T. (Measure 23) [3] 4
p
 Earth,
 B. (Measure 24) [3] 4
p
 Earth,
 Pno. (Measure 25) [3] 4
p 7 7 7 7

=
 Vc. (Measure 26) [3] 4
mp 5 5 6 5 5 6 7

S. (Measure 27) 3
<mf *mp* *mf*
 look down on the things that fet - ter me,
 A. (Measure 28) *p* *mf*
<mf *mp* *mf*
 look down on the things that fet - ter me I

T. (Measure 29) 3
p
 down on the things that fet - ter me,
 B. (Measure 30) 3
mp *mf*
 down on the things that fet - ter me,

Pno. (Measure 31) 3
mf
mf *mf*

* Ped.

26

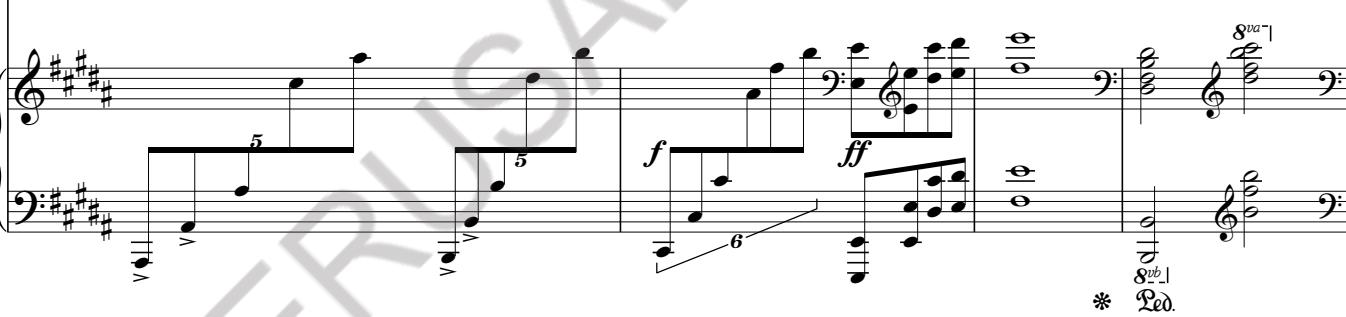
Vc. 

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Pno. 

* *Led.*

30

Vc.

S.

bove a - bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth And look down and look

A.

bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth And look down and look

T.

⁸ a - bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth and look look down and

B.

bove the Earth I rise a - bove the Earth and look down and

Pno.

^{8va} | ^{8va} | ^{8va} | ^{8va} | ^{8va} | ^{8va} | ^{mp}

36

Vc. *p*

S. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
— and look down on things that fet-ter me Or

A. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
— and look down on things that fet-ter me Or

T. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
8 look and look down on things that fet-ter me Or

B. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
look and look down on things that fet-ter me Or

Pno. *p* *mf* *3* *6* *8va* *Led.*

Stately

8vb *8vb* *

42

Vc. *pp* *p* *con vibrato* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

S. *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*
tran - quil lie, hmm Surge a - ter surge

A. *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*
tran - quil lie, hmm Surge a - ter surge

T. *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*
8 tran - quil lie, hmm Surge a - ter surge

B. *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*
tran - quil lie, hmm Surge a - ter surge

Pno. *5* *3* *p* *8va* *1* *

48

Vc.

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

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

T. 8 of po - tent strength Like in-cense comes o - ver me, When I

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



51

Vc.

S. — rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

A. — rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

T. 8 — rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

B. — rise up a - bove the Earth And look down up-on

Pno.

8va

f

p

Bassoon

56

Vc. pp

S. pp

things that fet - ter me oo oh

A. pp

things that fet - ter me oo oh

T. 8 pp

things that fet - ter me oo oh

B. pp

things that fet - ter me 8va oh

Pno. * 8va f = p

=

62

Vc. mf

S. 8

A. mf

T. 8

B. mf

Pno. 15ma 3 6 pp ff f 15ma 3 6 ff f 3

65

Vc. f ff

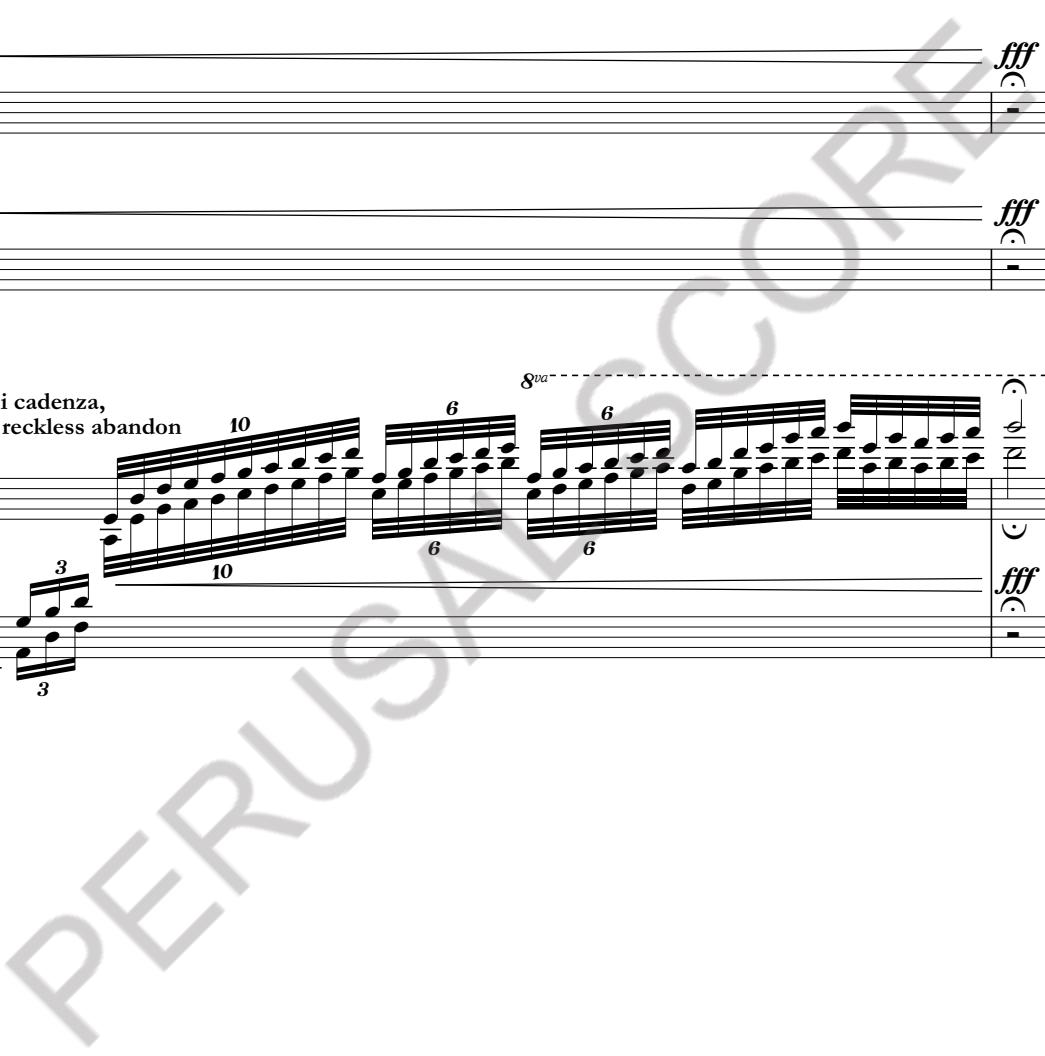
S. f ff When I

A. f ff When I

T. f ff When I

B. f ff When I

Pno. Quasi cadenza,
With reckless abandon 10 8va (white key
palm cluster) ff *



12 67 *f* Outpouring $\text{♩} = 72$ *ff* *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. *8va* *mf* 3 6 3 *fff* *f* *8va* *mf* 3 6 3 *fff* *f*

ped. pedal a piececere, 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* 3 6 3 *fff* *8va* *mf* 3 6 3 *fff*

8va *mf* 3 6 3 *fff*

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*

(8) 

=

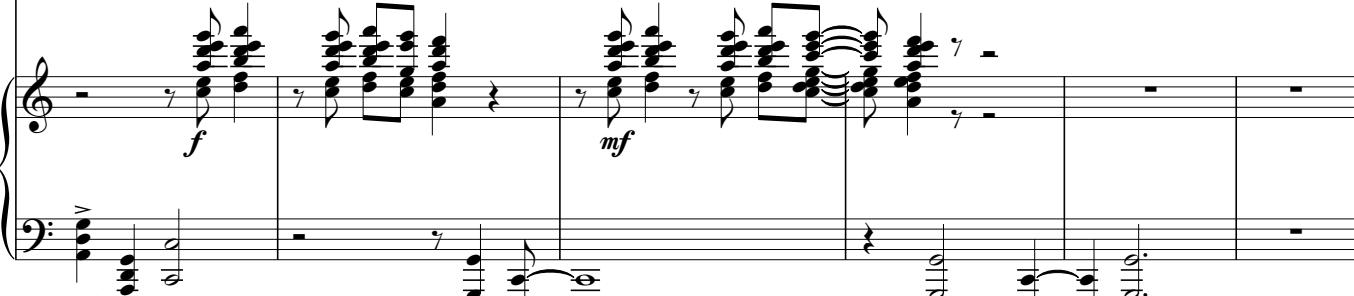
77

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* 

8vb *ped.*

83

Vc. *p* 3 6

S.

A.

T. 8

B.

Pno. 15^{ma} 3 6 ff 8^{va} 1 * 8^{va}

86

Vc. 8

S.

A.

T. 8

B.

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

Suddenly stopped,
almost startled

15

87

Vc.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. {

f

8va

fff

*

The musical score consists of six staves. The top four staves represent the vocal parts: Violin (Vc.), Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), and Tenor (T.). Each of these staves has a single note sustained across the measure. The bottom two staves represent the piano (Pno.) and bass (B.). The piano staff shows a dynamic marking 'f' and a sixteenth-note pattern starting at the eighth octave ('8va'). The bass staff has a single note sustained across the measure. The score concludes with a dynamic marking 'fff' and an asterisk (*) at the end of the measure.