

The Answer for SSAATTBB Choir

Sara Teasale

Logan Severson Willson



The Answer

(1915)

Sara Teasdale
(1884 - 1933)

When I go back to earth
And all my joyous body
Puts off the red and white
That once had been so proud,
If men should pass above
With false and feeble pity,
My dust will find a voice
To answer them aloud:

“Be still, I am content,
Take back your poor compassion—
Joy was a flame in me
Too steady to destroy.
Lithe as a bending reed
Loving the storm that sways her—
I found more joy in sorrow
Than you could find in joy.”

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Cold ♩ = 80

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mp*
When I _____ go back to earth And all _____ my joy-ous_ bo - dy

Bass *mp*
When I _____ go back to earth And all _____ my _____ bo - dy

7 *mp* **poco rit.** **a tempo** *mp*

Oh _____ Ah _____ That once had been so proud, If

Oh _____ Ah _____ That once had been so proud, If

8 Puts off the red and white That once had been so proud,

Puts off the red and white That once had been so proud,

molto rit.

men should pass a - bove With false and fee - ble pi - ty

men should pass a - bove With false pi - ty

p Oh Ah

p Oh Ah

Broadened ♩ = 72

rit.

Lingering ♩ = 68

My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud:

My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud: "Be

My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud: "Be

My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud:

24

optional solo *p* (tutti) *mp*

"Be still, Take back your poor com

still, I am con - tent, Take back your poor com -

still, I am con - tent, Take back your poor com -

optional solo *p* (tutti) *mp*

"Be still, Take back your poor com -

28

Resolute ♩ = 60 **rit.**

p cresc. poco a poco

pas - sion Joy was a flame in me

pas - sion Joy was a flame in me

pas - sion Too

pas - sion Too

a tempo

32 *f* *mp*

Too stea - dy to des - troy. Lithe as a bend - ing

f *mp*

Too stea - dy to des - troy. Lithe as a bend - ing

f

stea - dy to des - troy.

f

stea - dy to des - troy.

36 *p*

reed Lov - ing the storm that sways her

p

reed Lov - ing the storm that sways her

mp *p*

That Loves the storm that sways her

mp *p*

That Loves the storm that sways her

poco rit. al fine

40

p Ah

Oh

p Oh

mp

8 I found more joy in sor - row Than you could find in

mp

I found more joy in sor - row Than you could find in

44

Even slower $\text{♩} = 42$

pp Oh

pp Oh

8 joy."

joy."