

*for The 2024, 2025 Voces8 US Scholars*

# 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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# The Answer

for SSAATTBB Choir

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Cold ♩ = 80

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mp*

Bass *mp*

When I \_\_\_\_\_ go back to earth\_ And all \_\_\_\_\_ my joy-ous\_ bo - dy

When I \_\_\_\_\_ go back to earth\_ And all \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ joy-ous\_ 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

*mp*

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

*mp*

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

rit.

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

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

Oh Ah

Oh Ah

Broadened ♩ = 72

molto rit.

Lingering ♩ = 68

19 *f* My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud: *ff*

*f* My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud: optional solo *p* "Be

*f* My dust will find a voice To an - swer them a - loud: optional solo *p* "Be

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

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

*p cresc. poco a poco*

-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

40 **poco rit. al fine**

*p* Ah

Oh

*p* Oh

*mp*

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** ♩ = 42

*pp* Mm Mm

*pp* Mm Mm

joy."

joy."