

CCM516



Craig Carnahan

Refuge

S.A.T.B., divisi



Craig Carnahan Music
craigcarnahan.com

Refuge

From my spirit's gray defeat,
From my pulse's flagging beat,
From my hopes that turned to sand
Sifting through my close-clenched hand,
From my own fault's slavery,
If I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make
A refuge for my spirit's sake,
A house of shining words, to be
My fragile immortality.

~Sarah Teasdale (1884-1933)

PROGRAM NOTE

The Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet Sara Teasdale wrote and published nearly 400 poems. Many of them reflect a life that has been described as lonely and troubled. And even though she received public and critical acclaim, the tone of much of her writing was melancholy and grew increasingly dark.

That was not true of all of her poetry, however. Although the opening lines of *Refuge* reflect the poet's feelings of inadequacy and regret, the mood shifts dramatically as she embraces 'word' and 'song' and their transformative power to create a sanctuary where she could find peace and solace from the ills that tormented her.

– Craig Carnahan

Refuge

SATB *divisi, a cappella*

Commissioned by Bob Boyd in honor of his dear friends
and colleagues Connie Lyda, Andy Jeffrey, Laura Johnson,
Bryan Kunstman, Brandon Catt, Sarah Catt, and Drayton Eggelson.

Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933)

Craig Carnahan (b. 1951)

Sustained and lyrical ♩ = 72

Soprano
mp With my sing - ing a ref - uge I can
mf rall.

Alto
mp With my sing - ing a ref - uge I can
mf rall.

Tenor
8 With my sing - ing a ref - uge I can
mp *mf rall.*

Bass
With my sing - ing a ref - uge I can
mp *mf rall.*

Piano
(for rehearsal only)
rall.

c. 4:45 minutes

Throughout, balance the divisi chords evenly between the voices.

5 *mp* *a tempo*

S make. From my spir - it's gray de - feat, From my puls - e's flag-ging

A *mp* *a tempo*
make. From my spit - it's gray de - feat, From my puls - e's flag-ging

T *mp* *a tempo*
make. With my sing - ing, _____

B *mp* *a tempo*
make. With my sing - ing, _____

Pno.

9 *p* *unison mp*

S beat, From my hopes _____ that turned to sand Sift - ing through _____ my

A *p* *mp*
beat, From my hopes _____ that turned to sand _____ Sift - ing through my

T *p*
With my sing - ing, _____

B *p*
With my sing - ing, _____

Pno.

13

mf close - clenched hand, *mp* From my own fault's

mf close - clenched hand, *mp* From my own fault's

mf With my sing - ing, *mp* From my own fault's

mf With my sing - ing, *mp* From my own fault's

Pno.

18

mf slav - er - y, If I can sing, If I can sing, _____

mf slav - er - y, If I can sing, If I can sing, _____

mf slav - er - y, If I can sing, If I can sing, _____

mf slav - er - y, If I can sing, If I can sing, If I can

unison

unison

Pno.

23

f *subito p* *mp*

S I still am free. I

A I still am free. I

T If I can sing, I still am free. I

B sing, If I can sing, I still am free. I

Pno.

29

mf *mf*

S still am free. For with my sing - ing I can

A still am free. If I can sing. For with my sing - ing I can

T still am free. If I can sing.

B still am free.

Pno.

52 *mp*

S
sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I still am

A
I can sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I

T
8 — If I can sing, — I still am free. If I can sing, — I still am free. — If I can sing, —

B
tutti mf
(bring out slightly)
If I — can sing, I — still — am

Pno.

57 *cresc., poco a poco*

S
free. If I can sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I still am free. —

A
still am free. If I can sing, I still am free. If I can sing, I still am free. —

T
8 — I still am free. If I can sing, — I still am free. — If I can sing, — I still am

B
free. If I — can sing, I still — am free. —

Pno.

rall.

62 *f* *a tempo* *mf* *unison*

S For with my sing - ing I can make A ref - uge, —

A For with my sing - ing I can make a ref - uge, —

T free. For with my sing - ing I can make a ref - uge, — A

B For with my sing - ing I can make a ref - uge, —

Pno.

67 *mp*

S a ref - uge — for my spir - it's sake, for my spir - it's

A a ref - uge — for my spir - it's — sake, for my spir - it's —

T ref - uge — for my spir - it's sake, for my spir - it's

B a ref - uge — for my spir - it's sake, for my spir - it's

Pno.

82

S *mp* My frag - ile im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p*

A *mp* frag - ile im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p* *mp* If I can sing,

T *mp* My frag - ile im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p*

B *mp* My frag - ile im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p*

Pno.

88

S *mf* If I can sing, *f* If I can sing,

A *mf* *unison* *f* If I can sing, If I can sing,

T *mp* *mf* *f* If I can sing, If I can sing, If I can

B *mp* *unison* *mf* *f* If I can sing, If I can sing, If I can sing,

Pno.

93

S *ff* *rall.* I still am free. (8)

A *ff* *rall.* I still am free.

T *ff* *rall.* I still am free.

B If I can sing, *ff* *rall.* I still am free.

Pno. *rall.*