

If I Can Sing

SATB (div.) and piano



Music by Mitchell Covington
Words by Sara Teasdale



Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1933) was an American poet known for her deceptively simple lyric poetry that emphasized life's beauty.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, she was the youngest of four children. In delicate health throughout her childhood, she was tutored at home until the age of ten. Sara's childhood was often lonely. She lived in a separate suite in her family's grand homes, often left alone. The ill health of her childhood followed her throughout much of her adult life. She described her fragility as "a flower in a toiling world."

Teasdale's first collection, *Sonnets to Duse, and Other Poems*, was published when she was 23 years old. *Helen of Troy and Other Poems*, was published 4 years later. Both were praised by critics, who noted her mastery of the lyrical style. In 1918, she won a Pulitzer Prize for her poetry collection, *Love Songs*.



Mitchell Covington is an award-winning composer, arranger, conductor, and educator, living in the San Francisco Bay Area.

His music, in print with several prominent publishers, includes sacred and secular choral works as well as music for orchestra, stage, film, and television. His music has been broadcast nationally and performed internationally.

Mitchell is the recipient of the Met Life, Aaron Copland Foundation "Meet the Composer" Award, a Northern California Emmy Award, and J.W. Pepper's Editor's Choice Award. He has studied with Dan Forrest, Morten Lauridsen, Craig Courtney, and Roger Nixon.

Mitchell believes in the power of music to change lives and make our world a better place. When composing vocal music, Mitchell looks for texts with an uplifting message.

If I Can Sing

SATB (div.) Choir with Piano

For Bob Wells and the Colla Voce Choir
Head Royce School, Oakland, CA

Sara Teasdale (from *Songs out of Stress*, 1917)

Mitchell Covington (ASCAP)

Flowing ♩. = 60

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mf

mf

From my

From my

T

B

3

spi - rit's_ grey de - feat, From my puls - es_ flag-ging beat, From my

spi - rit's_ grey de - feat, From my puls - es_ flag-ging beat, From my

5

T hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing through my _ closed hand, From my

B hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing through my _ closed hand, From my

5

7

T own fault's slav - er - y, *mf* If I can

B own fault's slav - er - y, *mf* If I can

7

10

T sing, _ I still am free, _

B sing, _ I still am free, _

10

12 *mf*

S From my spi - rit's_ grey de - feat, From my

A *mf*
From my spi - rit's_ grey de - feat, From my

T *mf*
free. From my spr - rit's_ grey de -

B *mf*
free. From my spr - rit's_ grey de -

12

14

S puls - es_ flag-ging beat, From my hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing

A puls - es_ flag-ging beat, From my hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing

T feat, from my puls - es_ nag-ging beat From my hopes that turned to

B feat, from my puls - es_ nag-ging beat From my hopes that turned to

14

16

S through my — closed hand, *f* From my own fault's

A through my — closed hand, *f* From my own fault's

T sand, through my closed hand, my own fault's *f*

B sand, through my closed hand, my own fault's *f*

16

18

S slav - er - y, If I can sing, — I still am

A slav - er - y, If I can sing, — I still am

T slav - er - y, If I cansing, I still am

B slav - er - y, If I cansing I still am

18

21

S free, free. *Unis. mp* If I ² can

A free, free.

T free, free.

B free, free.

21

23

S sing,

A *mp* Sing I can

T *mp* If I can sing, I can

B *mp* If I can sing,

23

25

S I can sing,

A sing,

T sing, I can sing, I can

B I can sing

25

27

Slower $\text{♩} = 56$ *p*

Poco piu mosso $\text{♩} = 60$ *mp*

S For with my sing-ing I can make, A house of shin-ing words to

A For with my sing-ing I can make, A house of shin-ing words.

T sing. A ref-uge for my spi-rit's sake, Shin-ing words to

B A ref-uge for my spi-rit's sake

27

Slower $\text{♩} = 56$ *(mp)*

Poco piu mosso $\text{♩} = 60$

30

S be my im - mor - tal - i -

A A house of shin - ing words to be my fra - gile im - mor - tal - i -

T be, shin ing words, my fra - gile im - mor - tal - i

B *mp* A house of words to be my im - mor - tal - i -

30

Tempo Primo ♩. = 60

mf

32

S ty, if I can sing.

A ty, I can sing.

T ty, I can sing.

B ty, if I can sing.

32

Tempo Primo ♩. = 60

32

mf

34

S From my spi - rit's_ grey de - feat, From my

A From my spi - rit's_ grey de feat From my

T Sing, _____ sing, _____ sing,

B Sing, _____ sing, sing, _____

34

36

S puls - es_ flag-ging beat, From my hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing

A puls - es beat, From my hopes that turned to sand, sift-ing

T sing, _____ sing, _____ hopes, turned to sand,

B sing, sing, _____ hopes, turned to sand,

36

38

S through my — closed hand, *f* From my own fault's

A through my — closed hand, *f* from my own fault's

T through my hand, *f* from my own fault's

B through my hand, *f* from my own fault's

38

40

S slav - er - y, *Unis.* If I can sing, — I still am

A slav - er - y, If I can sing, — I still am

T slav - er - y, If I cansing I still am

B slav - er - y, *Unis.* If I cansing I still am

40

43

S free.

A free.

T free.

B free.



45

S Sing, sing, sing, I still am,

A Sing, sing, sing, I still am

T Sing, sing, sing, If I can sing I still am

B Sing, sing, If I can sing I still am



48

S If I can sing I still am, if I can sing, I am

A If I can sing I still am, if I can sing, I am

T free, I still am, if I can sing, I am

B free, I still am, if I can sing, I am

48

50

S free, free,

A free, free,

T free, free, free, free,

B free, free, free, free,

50

non rit.
ff

S
52
free, _____ free, _____ sing!

A
ff
free, _____ I can sing! _____

T
ff
Unis.
8 free, _____ free, _____ I can sing! _____

B
ff
Unis.
free, _____ I can sing!

52 *non rit.*
ff

