



THE UNKNOWN REGION
STEWART WILKINSON

SATB a cappella
RM ACH 233

RENFORTH MUSIC
Rothesay, New Brunswick, Canada
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NOTES

The sudden passing of Dominic Gregorio on March 3, 2019, saddened the entire music community in Regina and far beyond. As I tried to make some sense of it, I was struck by the poignancy of the text of Walt Whitman's "Darest Thou Now, O Soul". For me, the poetry is in two parts - the first aggressively daring death, knowing there is no path to follow, and unsure of what awaits. The second part frees the soul to "burst forth", tied only to the eternal forces of time and space.

- Stewart Wilkinson

Darest thou now, O Soul,
Walk out with me toward the Unknown Region,
Where neither ground is for the feet,
nor any path to follow?

No map, there, nor guide,
Nor voice sounding, nor touch of human hand,
nor face with blooming flesh,
nor lips, nor eyes, are in that land.

I know it not, O Soul;
Nor dost thou - all is a blank before us;
All waits, undream'd of, in that region -
that inaccessible land.

Till, when the ties loosen,
All but the ties eternal, Time and Space,
Nor darkness, gravitation, sense,
nor any bounds, bound us.

Then we burst forth - we float,
In Time and Space, O Soul - prepared for them;
Equal, equipt at last - (O joy! O fruit of all!)
them to fulfill, O Soul.

The Unknown Region

In memory of Dr. Dominic Gregorio (1977-2019)

Walt Whitman
from "Darest Thou Now, O Soul"

Stewart Wilkinson

♩ = 120

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano (rehearsal only)

p *mf* *mf* *mf*

O Soul, with me to-ward the
O Soul, with me to-ward the
Dar - est thou now, Dar - est thou now walk out to-ward the
Dar - est thou now, Dar - est thou now walk out to-ward the

5 *rit.*

S.
A.
T.
B.

Un - known Re - gion where nei - ther ground is for the feet, nor a - ny path to fol - low? ____
Un - known Re - gion ground is for the feet, nor a - ny path to fol - low?
Un - known Re - gion ground is for the feet, nor a - ny path to fol - low? ____
Un - known Re - gion ground is for the feet, nor a - ny path to fol - low? ____

The Unknown Region

8 *a tempo*
mf

S. No map there, nor guide, nor voice sound - ing, nor touch of hu - man hand, nor face with bloom - ing

A. *mf*
No map there, oo nor touch of hu - man hand, nor face with bloom - ing

T. *mf*
No map there, _____ nor voice sound - ing, nor touch of hu - man hand, nor face with bloom - ing

B. *mf*
No map there, oo nor touch of hu - man hand, nor face with bloom - ing

12 *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

S. flesh, nor lips, nor eyes, are in that land. _____ O Soul;

A. *f* *mp*
flesh, nor lips, nor eyes, are in that land. _____ I know it not, O Soul;

T. *f*
flesh, nor lips, nor eyes, that land. _____ I know it not, nor dost thou, _____

B. *f*
flesh, nor lips, nor eyes, that land. _____ I know it not, nor dost thou, _____

The Unknown Region

17 *f*

S. all is a blank be - fore us; _____ all waits, un - dreamed of in that re - gion, _____ that

A. all is a blank be - fore us; _____ all waits, un - dreamed of in that re - gion, _____ that

T. _____ blank be - fore us; _____ un - dreamed of in that re - gion, _____ that

B. _____ blank be - fore us; _____ in that re - gion, _____ that

21 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo* (solo) O Soul, *mp* O Soul,

S. in - ac - ces - si - ble land. Dar - est thou! Dar - est thou!

A. in - ac - ces - si - ble land. Dar - est thou! Dar - est thou!

T. in - ac - ces - si - ble land. Dar - est thou! Dar - est thou!

B. in - ac - ces - si - ble land. Dar - est thou! Dar - est thou!