YOUR SOUL IS SONG

SATB choir & piano
Sing!
When the seams burst,
and the traps ensnare,
and your body breaks,
and the light flees—
Sing then!
For then, your soul is song.

— Germán Aguilar

About the Work

When Germán Aguilar passed away unexpectedly in the summer of 2014, it was a huge loss to our world. Germán had a warm, kind personality and a love for life, teaching, and the people around him. He was a choral conductor, had a beautiful tenor voice, and was deeply engaged in the music community.

After a difficult time in his life, Germán wrote this poem — a plea to the power of song and weathering the storms of life. Germán died of a massive aneurism in the middle of a concert, while he was singing, and I can’t move beyond that image and the meaning it brings to these words. Life is not easy, and is never perfect, but there is so much beauty and joy to be found in song.

About the Composer

Considered “one of the best of the younger American composers” (Chicago Tribune), award-winning composer and conductor Jake Runestad has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Voces8, Washington National Opera, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Seraphic Fire, the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, the Pacific Chorale, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and a forthcoming all-Runestad album from Grammy-winning Conspirare. In 2019, Jake became one of the youngest composers ever awarded the prestigious Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association.

Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers in the world and has traveled to work with ensembles on all but one continent. Jake Runestad holds a Master’s degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts.

Learn more at: JakeRunestad.com
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Germán Aguilar
(1979-2014)

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

When the seams burst, and the traps en-snare, and your bod-y breaks, and the

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poco accel. . . . More motion $\dot{=}60$

light flees—

Sing then!

poco accel. . . . More motion $\dot{=}60$

Pedal freely

molto rit. . . . f $\dot{=}50$

Sing then! For then, your soul is

molto rit. . . . $\dot{=}50$
Faster, with energy $\dot{f}=86$

```
SA

song.

TB

song.

Faster, with energy $\dot{f}=86$

Pno.

mp
```
Your soul

Your soul
Jubilantly

SA

is

TB

is

Jubilantly

mf

song.

mf

song.

Jubilantly

mf with joy

Pedal freely

\[\text{mf with joy}\]
Sing!  *When the seams burst, sing, when the traps ensnare,

Sing!  *When the seams burst, sing, when the traps ensnare,

*Careful not to rush these triplets each time they appear!
Make sure they are stretched eighth note triplets and not 16th notes!

Sing, when your body breaks, sing, when the light flees—
*Sing then! For then, your soul is

*Please do not elide with a single "s" sound. Include a shadow vowel inbetween "flees" and "sing" so we hear each word. There should not be a rest/break between "flees" and "sing."

song.
Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the traps ensnare,

Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the

sing, when your body breaks, sing, when the

traps ensnare, sing, when your body breaks, sing, when the
Sing then! For then, your soul is light—

For then, your soul is

song.

ah
Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the traps ensnare,

Sing! When your body breaks, sing, when the light flees—

traps ensnare, sing, when your body breaks, sing, when the
Sing then! For then, your soul is light fleeing— For then, your soul is

song. For song. For

For
then, your soul is

then, your soul is

molto rit.

song.

song.

molto rit.