

JR0074 – RUNESTAD: YOUR SOUL IS SONG

Jake Runestad

YOUR SOUL IS SONG

SATB choir & piano

Text

Duration ca. 4:30

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

Commissioned by Choirs of America for a
2019 world premiere at Carnegie Hall

YOUR SOUL IS SONG

Germán Aguilar
(1979-2014)

for G & J

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

Intense ♩=60

Piano

f *mf* softening

Red.

7

mp *p* *p legato*

rit. Slowly, Rubato ♩=50 rit.

13

a tempo, Heavily

SA *p*

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


T&B *pp ethereal*

oo— and the

a tempo, Heavily

Pno.

13

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poco accel. More motion ♩=60

SA
light flees— Sing then!

TB
div. light flees— Sing then!

Pno.
17 Pedal freely

molto rit. ♩=50

SA
Sing then! For then, your soul is

TB
Sing then! For then, your soul is

Pno.
21

25 **Faster, with energy** ♩=86 *mp*

SA
song.

TB
song.

Pno. *mp*

25

27

SA

TB

Pno.

27

30 *pp*

SA

TB

Pno.

30

32

SA

TB

Pno.

32

Your soul

Your soul

34

SA

is

TB

is

Pno.

10

10

10

10

34

8^{va}

Jubilantly

35

SA

mf

song.

TB

mf

song.

Jubilantly

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

Pno.

mf with joy

35

△ Pedal freely

37 *mf with joy*

SA Sing! _____ *When the seams burst, sing, _____ when the traps en - snare,

TB *mf with joy*

Sing! _____ *When the seams burst, sing, _____ when the traps en - snare,

Pno. *mf with joy*

37

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

39

SA sing, _____ when your bod - y breaks, sing, _____ when the light flees—

TB sing, _____ when your bod - y breaks, sing, _____ when the light flees—

Pno.

39

41

SA
*Sing then! For then, _____ your_ soul is

TB
*Sing then! For then, _____ your_ soul is

Pno.

41

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 41-43. The vocal parts (SA and TB) are in a soprano and tenor/bass clef, respectively, with lyrics: "*Sing then! For then, _____ your_ soul is". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and rests, marked with '6' (trills) and '8va' (octave) in the right hand, and block chords in the left hand. Measure numbers 41 and 43 are indicated at the beginning and end of the system.

*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."

43

SA
song.

TB
song.

Pno.

43

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 43-45. The vocal parts (SA and TB) are in a soprano and tenor/bass clef, respectively, with lyrics: "song.". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) continues with the same rhythmic pattern as in the previous system, marked with '6' (trills) and '8va' (octave) in the right hand, and block chords in the left hand. Measure numbers 43 and 45 are indicated at the beginning and end of the system.

45 *mf*

SA Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the traps en - snare,

TB Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the

Pno.

45 *v* *φ* *v* *φ*

47

SA sing, when your bod - y breaks, sing, when the light flees—

TB traps en - snare, sing, when your bod - y breaks, sing, when the

Pno.

47 *v* *φ* *v* *φ*

49

SA
Sing then! For then, _____ your_ soul is

TB
light flees— For then, _____ your_ soul is

Pno.

49

51

SA
song. _____ ah

TB
song. _____

Pno.

f

51

53 *soaring*

SA

TB

f soaring

ah

Pno.

53

55

SA

TB

ah

Pno.

55

Musical score for measures 57-58. The score is for Soprano Alto (SA), Tenor Bass (TB), and Piano (Pno.).

- SA:** Measures 57-58. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measure 57 contains a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 58 contains a half note.
- TB:** Measures 57-58. Bass clef, key signature of one flat. Measure 57 contains a triplet of eighth notes with the vocalization "ah" below. Measure 58 contains a triplet of eighth notes with the vocalization "ah" below.
- Pno.:** Measures 57-58. Treble and bass clefs, key signature of one flat. Measure 57 features a complex piano accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and sixteenth-note triplets in the right hand, and chords in the left hand. Measure 58 continues the piano accompaniment with similar patterns.

Measure numbers 57 and 58 are indicated at the bottom of the piano part.

Musical score for measures 59-60. The score is for Soprano Alto (SA), Tenor Bass (TB), and Piano (Pno.).

- SA:** Measures 59-60. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measure 59 contains a half note. Measure 60 contains a half note.
- TB:** Measures 59-60. Bass clef, key signature of one flat. Measure 59 contains a half note. Measure 60 contains a half note.
- Pno.:** Measures 59-60. Treble and bass clefs, key signature of one flat. Measure 59 features a complex piano accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and sixteenth-note triplets in the right hand, and chords in the left hand. Measure 60 continues the piano accompaniment with similar patterns.

Measure numbers 59 and 60 are indicated at the bottom of the piano part.

61 *f*

SA Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the traps en - snare,

TB Sing! When the seams burst, sing, when the

Pno. *f*

61 *v* *d*

63

SA sing, when your bod - y breaks, sing, when the light flees—

TB traps en - snare, sing, when your bod - y breaks, sing, when the

Pno.

63 *v* *d*

65

SA Sing then! For then, _____ your soul is

TB light flees— For then, _____ your soul is

Pno.

65

67 *fmp* *mf*

SA song. For

TB *fmp* *mf*

song. For

Pno.

67

69

SA
then, your soul is

TB
then, your soul is

Pno.

69

molto rit.

71

SA
song.

TB
song.

Pno.

molto rit.

71