

When the World Is on Fire

SATB divisi
a cappella

By Marisa Squadrito Geisler



Pineheart Press

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When the World Is on Fire

When the world is on fire,
we gather.
We gather to watch the flames,
to decipher their patterns,
to bear witness,
to mourn.
We gather in silence to plead,
we gather in the silence to scream.

When the world is on fire,
we listen.
We long to hear the voice
of the dove,
to see her wings in flight.

When the world is on fire,
we gather our pain,
we gather our anger,
our hopelessness,
our despair,
our fear,
and we cast them into
the blaze.

When the world is on fire,
we glow and burn.
We light a pathway
of open hands,
of marching feet,
of eyes that see.

When the world is on fire,
the redwoods sing,
pine cones popping
to release their seeds
to the earth,
and we gather.
We gather to bear witness,
to discern the patterns,
to join the circle,
to share our flame.

When the World Is on Fire

Marisa Squadrito Geisler

$\text{♩} = 80$ ***f* (distraught)** ***p* (emotionally numb)** **Moderato** ($\text{♩} = 108$)

Soprano
When the world is on fire when the world is on fire When the world is on

Alto
When the world is on fire when the world is on fire When the world is on

Tenor
8 When the world is on fire when the world is on fire

Bass
When the world is on fire when the world is on fire

$\text{♩} = 80$ **Moderato** ($\text{♩} = 108$)

For rehearsal only

6 ***mp*** ***p***
S fire when the world is on fire we gath - er we gath - er We

A fire when the world is on fire we gath - er we gath - er We

T ***p* (emotionally numb)**
8 gath - er gath - er gath - er

B ***p* (emotionally numb)**
gath - er gath - er

6 6

2 13

S gath - er to watch the flames *mp* to de - ci - pher their *p*

A gath - er to watch the flames *mp* to de - ci - pher their *p*

T 8 gath - er to watch the flames *mp*

B to watch the flames *mp*

13

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 13 through 17. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics 'gath - er to watch the flames' and 'to de - ci - pher their'. The Tenor part has lyrics 'gath - er to watch the flames'. The Bass part has lyrics 'to watch the flames'. The Piano part provides harmonic support. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). A *poco rit* (ritardando) marking is present at the end of the system.

18

S pat - terns *mf* (with awakening emotion) bear wit - ness *poco rit p* to mourn

A pat - terns *mf* (with awakening emotion) bear wit - ness *poco rit p* to mourn

T 8 to bear wit - ness *mp* (with awakening emotion) *mf* *mp* *poco rit p* wit - ness we gath - er to mourn

B to bear wit - ness *mp* (with awakening emotion) *mf* *mp* *poco rit p* wit - ness we gath - er to mourn

18

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 18 through 22. It features the same five staves as the first system. The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics 'pat - terns', 'bear wit - ness', and 'to mourn'. The Tenor part has lyrics 'to bear wit - ness', 'wit - ness we gath - er', and 'to mourn'. The Bass part has lyrics 'to bear wit - ness', 'wit - ness we gath - er', and 'to mourn'. The Piano part provides harmonic support. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p* (piano). A *poco rit* (ritardando) marking is present at the end of the system.

23 *a tempo* *mp* 3

S — We gath - er in sil - ence to plead — We gath - er in the

A — We gath - er in sil - ence to plead — We gath - er in the

T 8 — We gath - er in sil - ence to plead — we gath - er in the

B — We gath - er in sil - ence to plead — we gath - er in the

23 *a tempo*

29 *mf* *fp* *f* A little faster (♩ = 120)

S sil - ence to scream —

A sil - ence to scream —

T 8 sil - ence to scream — When the world is on fire we list - en —

B sil - ence to scream — When the world is on fire we list - en —

29 *mf* *fp* *f* *mf* A little faster (♩ = 120)

4 35

p *mp* *unis. p*

S We — long to hear the voice of the dove hear — her voice

A *p* *mp* *p*

A We long to hear the voice of the dove hear her voice

T *p*

T to hear her voice to see her

B *p*

B to hear her voice to see her

to see her

35

35

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 35 through 42. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics. The Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics starting from measure 40. The Piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation. Dynamics include piano (p), mezzo-piano (mp), and unison piano (unis. p). There are crescendo and decrescendo hairpins over the Soprano and Alto parts in measures 36-38.

43

mf *f*

S in flight — her wings in flight —

A *mf* *f*

A in — flight — flight — her wings in flight

T *f*

T wings in flight in flight — in flight her wings in — flight

B *f*

B wings in flight flight in flight her wings in flight

wings in flight

43

43

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 43 through 49. It features the same five staves as the first system. The lyrics continue. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and forte (f). There are crescendo and decrescendo hairpins over the Soprano and Alto parts in measures 44-46. The Piano accompaniment continues in grand staff notation.

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Many thanks!

6 65

mf *p* *accel.*

S — When the world is on fire we glow — glow glow we glow — we

A — When the world is on fire we glow — we glow we glow we glow and burn we

T — we glow — we glow we glow we glow and burn we

B — we glow — we glow we glow — we glow — we

65

65

accel.

74 *cresc. poco a poco* **Allegro** (♩ = 132)

S light — a path - way of op - en hands — of march - ing feet — of

A *cresc. poco a poco* light — a path - way of op - en hands — of march - ing feet — of

T *cresc. poco a poco* light — a path - way of op - en hands — of march - ing feet — of

B *cresc. poco a poco* light — a path - way of op - en hands — of march - ing feet — of

74 **Allegro** (♩ = 132)

74

Broadly (♩ = 116)

7

80

S *f* eyes that see *mf* the red-woods

A *f* eyes that see *mf* When the world is on fire the red-woods

T *f* eyes that see *mf* that see When the world is on fire

B *f* eyes that see *mf* that see *unis. mf* world is on fire

80

80

87

S *mf* sing sing sing sing red - woods sing

A *mf* sing sing sing sing red - woods sing

T *f* sing sing the red - woods sing sing the

B *f unis.* sing sing the red - woods sing sing the

87

87

8

ff

the red - woods sing

94

S sing the red - woods sing sing red - woods sing

A red - woods red - woods sing sing sing red - woods sing

T red - woods red - woods sing sing the red - woods sing sing

B red - woods red - woods sing sing the red - woods sing sing

94

94

102

mf *unis.*

S sing sing re - lease their seeds to the earth

A *mf* *unis.* sing sing re - lease their seeds to the earth

T *f* *mf* pine cones pop-ping to re - lease their seeds seeds to the earth

B *f* *mf* pine cones pop-ping to re - lease their seeds seeds to the earth

102

102

rit. *mp*

rit. *mp*

rit. *mp*

rit. *mp*

rit. *mp*

110 ♩ = 112 *meno mosso* **p** *cresc. poco a poco* **mf** 9

S we gath - er we gath - er and we gath - er we gath - er

A we gath - er we gath - er and we gath - er we gath - er

T **p** *meno mosso* *cresc. poco a poco* **mf**
8 and we gath - er we gath - er we gath - er we gath - er

B **p** *meno mosso* *cresc. poco a poco* **mf**
and we gath - er we gath - er we gath - er we gath - er

110 ♩ = 112 *meno mosso*

118

S to bear wit - ness to join the cir - cle

A to bear wit - ness to join the cir - cle

T **mp** **mf** 3 dis - cern the pat - terns join the cir - cle

B *melody* 3 dis - cern the pat - terns join the cir - cle

118 3

10

125

mp

S

to share our

A

mp

to share our flame our flame share our

T

mp

to share our flame share our

B

mp

share our flame share our

125

125

132

no rit.

mf

S

flame to share our flame

A

no rit.

mf

flame share our flame

T

no rit.

mf

flame share share our flame

B

no rit.

mf

flame our flame

132

132

no rit.