

Don Macdonald Choral Music 2019



Contemporary Classical

Ave Maris Stella, Ave Maria, Tabula Rasa, Moonset, Last Night of Stars, Pacem, Goodbye, Fire-Flowers,

Contemporary Popular Styles

She is the River, When the Earth Stands Still, Selene's Boat, The Rose of Jericho

Rhythmic

Voices of the Ancients, Fusion

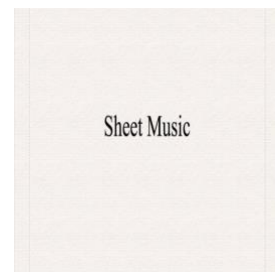
She is the River (SATB, SSA, TTB) [New!](#)

Contemporary up-tempo with lots of offbeat rhythms and close voicings.
The lyrics are about the power of the female spirit.

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Moonset (SATB, SSA, TTB) [New!](#)

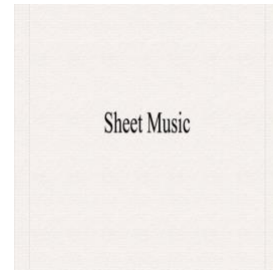
Contemporary Classical - Evocative with close harmonies
Poetry by Emily Pauline Johnson

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Goodbye (SATB, SSAA) [New!](#)

Contemporary Classical - Evocative with close harmonies

From the song-cycle Fire-Flowers featuring the poetry of Emily Pauline Johnson.



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Three Tangos for String Quartet

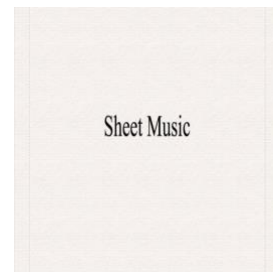
String quartet arrangements of three of the most well-known pieces in the Tango repertoire: Trenzas, Danzarin, and Romance de Barrio. Each piece has been transformed substantially from the original by changes in harmony, time signature, and rhythm.

Written for an intermediate to advanced level ensemble.

Contact me if you would like to purchase individual movements separately.

Duration: 6:35

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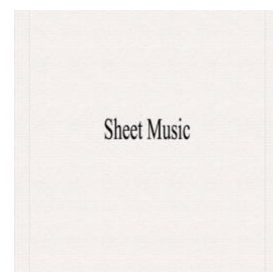


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Chasing Visions (SATB, SAB, SSA, TTB) [New!](#)

A nostalgic folk ballad with gospel-style accompaniment.

Written for an intermediate level ensemble, the poetry is about the power of memories to bring back a connection to those that have passed on.

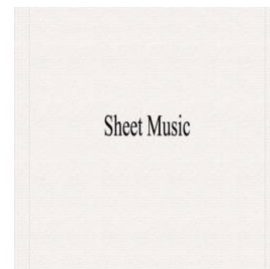


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Fire-Flowers (SATB, SSA) [New!](#)

Contemporary Classical

From the song-cycle Fire-Flowers featuring the poetry of Emily Pauline Johnson. This is the last piece in the cycle.

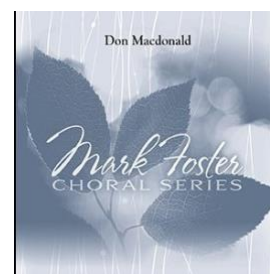


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Carry Me (SA)

Contemporary with Minimalist Piano Accompaniment

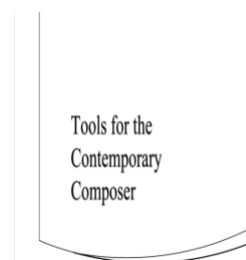
The poetry, in the form of a chant, traces the journey of a droplet of rain and supposes that we might join on that journey.



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Tools for the Contemporary Composer

This book is designed to improve the skills of composers by presenting a wide variety of compositional tools in styles ranging from Classical to Jazz, Folk, Rock, and Pop. By studying the recordings and scores of composers throughout history readers will gain a musical awareness that will strengthen their own compositional process. Particular attention is paid to the “building blocks of a composition,” the musical elements such as melody, harmony, and rhythm that are at the core of the creative process.



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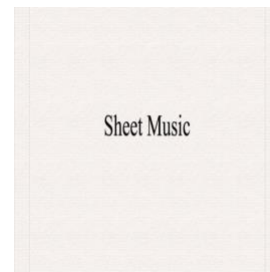
[Composition Textbook Master Document Website 2019 Sneak Peek](#)

Fusion (SATB, SSAA)

Contemporary Rhythmic

The text uses mnemonics to accentuate the rhythmic aspects of the piece.

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Selene's Boat (SATB, SSAA)

Purchase at Sheet Music Plus - Selene is the goddess of the moon in Greek mythology.

This piece was originally written after we purchased a "Hapi", a relative of the "Hang" drum. The sound of my early improvisations on the instrument evoked an image of something celestial so we decided that the lyrics should be about [...]

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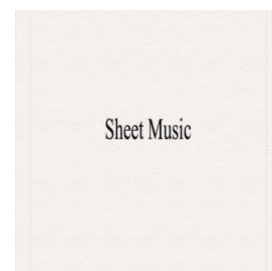
Fire-Flowers (Song-Cycle) SSAA

This is a song cycle of 7 pieces that celebrates the poetry of the famous Canadian poetess Emily Pauline Johnson. The work was commissioned by the University of Western Ontario Women's Choir "Les Choristes" directed by Jennifer Moir. Download the premiere recording of all 7 pieces here –

<https://donmacdonaldmusic.com/downloads/Fireflowers%20Les%20Choristes%2012.12.17.zip>

Contact me to purchase the sheet [...]

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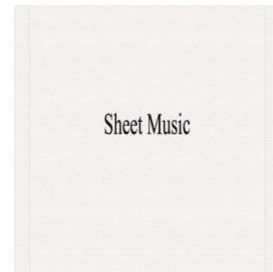


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The Rose of Jericho (SATB)

Commissioned by the Kaleid Choral Festival 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mO2EPNuPk8> The Rose of Jericho One leaf out of the fire West wind taking it higher One year after forever two hands coming together And now their roots are protected and green is starting to show for here there's life unexpected like the rose of Jericho [...]



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Ave Maris Stella (SSATB)

Contemporary Classical with close harmonies

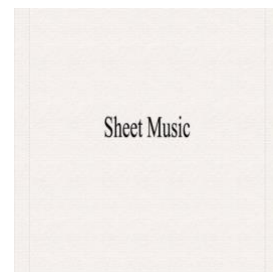


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Christmas Reverie (SATB, SSAA)

Up-tempo Jazz Waltz - piano and optional upright bass accompaniment

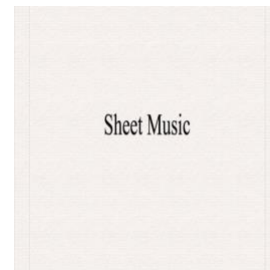
I was commissioned to write this piece by Electra Women's Choir in Vancouver BC for their Christmas Concert in 2015. Suitable for an intermediate to advanced level group. [...]



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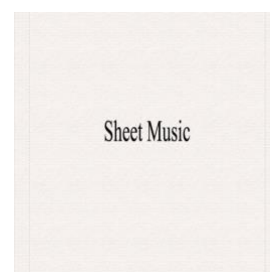
Selene's Boat (SSAA)

Selene is the goddess of the moon in Greek mythology. This piece was originally written after we purchased a “Hapi”, a relative of the “Hang” drum. The sound of my early improvisations on the instrument evoked an image of something celestial so we decided that the lyrics should be about the moon. I created the [...]

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Voices of the Ancients (SAB, SSA, TTb)

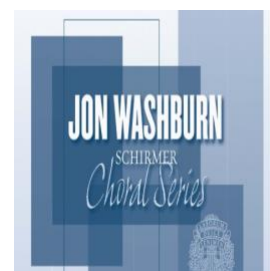
Up-tempo Rhythmic - Written for an intermediate to advanced level ensemble, this high energy piece is a great concert closer. Some of the rhythmic syllables are borrowed from Indian percussion.

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Last Night of Stars (SATB)

Contemporary Classical

A child lies in her bed at night staring out of her high-rise window at a view obscured by a thick haze, her bedroom flooded with sounds from the city. One child such as this may be the voice that brings about the changes needed to remedy our relationship with the planet.

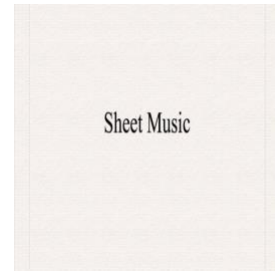
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Boots - Infantry Columns (TTBB)

Contemporary Classical - stirring and powerful

Poetry by Rudyard Kipling. With snare drum and marching.

Chor Leoni Men's Choir will be performing this work this year at their annual Remembrance Day Concert.



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Eva/Jamaican Folksong (SATB, SSAA)

Jamaican Folk Song - about a little girl named Eva. Jazzy, rhythmic, and full of great harmony. Eva falla line gone Eva run, come back What a qwine do with that falla line gal? Eva walk , go a Kingston Eva run, come back Them put Eva in [...]



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Ave Maria (SSATB)

Contemporary Classical



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Tabula Rasa (SATB, SSAA, TTBB)

Contemporary Classical -

Spanish Poetry by Allison Girvan



It was the winning composition of the 2010 DaCapo Chamber Choir NewWorks competition.

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"The evening opened with "Tabula Rasa" by Don Macdonald, an absolutely lovely piece that could supplant Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" as Cantus' trademark tune." *The Twin Cities Pioneer Press* (Cantus Male Vocal Ensemble)

There is No Rose (SSATTB, SSAA)

Contemporary Classical - This sacred English Carol has been set by many composers over the years, probably most famously by Benjamin Britten in his "Ceremony of Carols". This version is written for an intermediate to advanced level ensemble and contains some gentle dissonances that build and then retract to suggest the image of a rose open and closing. [...]



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When the Earth Stands Still (SATB, SSAA, TTBB)

Contemporary Popular Style

This is one of my most popular pieces and my TTBB version has over 100,000 views on youtube. It has been performed and recorded by many fine ensembles including the University of Johannesburg Choir, the Luther College Nordic Choir, and the Phoenix Chamber Choir.

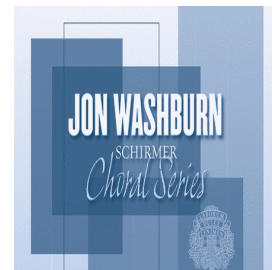


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Pacem (SATB, SSAA)

Contemporary Classical -for an advanced ensemble with the ability to do up to 8 parts divisi.

The anti-war text is in Latin.



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Winter Sun

Contemporary Classical - up-tempo and jubilant

“To light, to water, and the flow of birds through ancient stars.” This fantastic poetry written by Malca Litovitz, so rich with imagery of the Canadian Winter, provided the inspiration for a composition that embraces word painting.



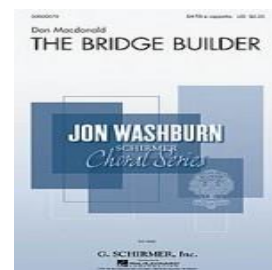
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The Bridge Builder (SATB)

Contemporary Classical with lots of syncopation.

Notable Performances by the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the University of Pittsburgh's Heinz Chapel Choir.

The Poetry by Will Allen Dromgoole (female poet) is often used in sacred settings and has a strong message about building links for the future and passing the torch along for the next generation



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Don Macdonald Choral Music Newsletter 2019