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*Commissioned by Marni Johnson and Gordon Roberts and dedicated to
Flight Lieutenant Ronald H. N. Roberts (1922-2022), RCAF squadron 518,
and to all who serve their country from the air.*

For Chor Leoni Men's Choir,
Vancouver, BC.
Erick Lichte Artistic Director

High Flight

The sixth and final movement from High Flight

Don Macdonald

Poetry by John Gillespie Magee Jr.

SATB with Piano

Duration: c. 3'10

POETRY BY JOHN GILLESPIE MAGEE JR.

High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,-and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of-wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew-
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God*

This is the final movement of a 20 minute, 6 movement work that uses the poetry of WW2 pilot John Gillespie Magee Jr. to trace the journey from the innocence of his home life to the harsh realities of war.

Don Macdonald is a Canadian composer known for his work in film and choral music. His choral works have been performed and recorded by leading ensembles worldwide, including Lyyra (Voces8 Foundation, UK), Rajaton (Finland), the Vancouver Chamber Choir (Canada), Cantus (USA), and the University of Johannesburg Choir (SA).

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6. High Flight

Music by Don Macdonald

tempo ♩ = 62

Molto Rubato**A**

Treble

Oh! I have slipped the sur-ly bonds of

Piano

p *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Tr.

Earth And danced the skies on laugh-ter sil-vered wings; Sun-ward I've climbed, and joined the

B.

Sun-ward I've climbed, and joined the

Pno.

mf *mp*

Tr.

tum-ling mirth of sun-split clouds, and done a hun-dred things You have not dreamed of

B.

tum-ling mirth of sun-split clouds, and done a hun-dred things You have not dreamed of

Pno.

mf *mp* *mf*

S
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B

Tr. *mp* *mf*
wheeled and_ soared and swung High in the sun-lit si-lence

B *mp* *mf*
wheeled_ soared and swung High in the sun-lit si-lence

Pno. *mp* *mf*
wheeled_ soared and swung High in the sun-lit si-lence

C
O
P
Y

Tr. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *subito p*
si - lence. Hov'-ring there, High in the sun-lit si-lence. Hov'-ring there, I've

B *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *subito p*
si - lence. Hov'-ring there, High in the sun-lit si-lence. Hov'-ring there, I've

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *subito p*
si - lence. Hov'-ring there, High in the sun-lit si-lence. Hov'-ring there, I've

SAMPLE

25

Tr. *mf* *f*

chased the shout-ing wind a-long, and flung My ea-ger craft through foot-less halls of air...

B *mf* *f*

chased the shout-ing wind a-long, and flung My ea-ger craft through foot-less halls of air...

Pno. *mf* *f*

COPY

30

Tr. *mf* *f*

Up, up the long, de - li-ri-ous, burn-ing blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with ea-sy

B *mf*

I've topped the wind-swept heights with ea-sy

Pno. *mf*

S
A
M
P
L
E

Tr. 34 *f* *mf* The

grace And, while with si-lent lift-ing mind I trod

B *Ten.* *f*

grace Where ne-ver lark nor ea-gle flew - And, while with si-lent lift-ing mind I trod

Pno. *mf* 3

C
O
P
Y

Tr. 38 *f* *p*

high un-tres-passed sanc-ti-ty of space, Ooh of space, Put

B *mf* *f*

Ooh The high un-tres-passed sanc-ti-ty of space, of space,

Pno.

D Tempo Rubato

Tr. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
out my hand and touched the face Put out my hand, and touched the face Put out my hand, and touched the face, the

B *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
Put out my hand, and touched the face, Put out my hand, and touched the face, the

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*

Meno mosso

S. Solo

Tr. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *p*
face the face Aah the face of God, hmm

B *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
face, the face of God, hmm

Pno. *mf* *p* *pp*
mp Red.