



We Can See the Stars

Text from *The Stars Above the Sea*
by AMOS RUSSEL WELLS
Music by STEVE PARSONS

Preview Only
Excelcia Music Publishing

About the Composer



Steve is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. His composing credits include: Evensong (for Choir and Orchestra,) Seascapes (RBC Publications,) *Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera* (Translations Art Gallery,) *Visions* (an oratorio based on the book of Revelation,) *Rise City Silent, Sing!*, *College Slam* (video game, Akklaim,) and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles. An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals.

Steve's musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is published by Steele Spring Stage Rights in Los Angeles and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (14 seasons,) New York (Off-Off Broadway,) Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City.) As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical *Cumberland Blues* (NYMF, NY,) *Life Could Be A Dream* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA,) *It's A Wonderful Life* (Regional,) and *Footloose* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library.) His other credits include: *Nonsense and Nonsense A-Men!* (music preparation, NY,) *The Ticker* (member of the "Tickestra," FOX,) and *Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz* (consultant and contributor, Applause Books.)

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University.

We Can See the Stars

How often do we look up at the stars and ponder their majestic, seemingly omnipotent sense of calm and wonder? In contrast with the ever-shifting, restless tides of the sea, they seem to hang suspended in the night sky with timeless beauty. More so, if we gaze out to the far horizon, it seems these two opposing forces of sky and sea shrink into the distance and find some remote meeting place beyond our vision. Ultimately, we know this point doesn't truly exist, but still we ponder, both literally and figuratively. The author of this poem, suggests that while said meeting between chaos and serene order is logically impossible, it doesn't matter: all we have to do is lift our eyes to see the stars.

I've always appreciated such imagery, and was thrilled to find a poem that captured such a vivid depiction of the struggle between the world's turbulence and a contemplative peace of mind. One can ascribe both spiritual and practical significance to these beautiful words, and I've tried to set them with appropriate celestial-minded music. With that in mind, while performing this piece keep the unison sections very light and full of inspirational lift. It's also crucial to follow the dynamic markings closely so the music ebbs, flows, and ultimately builds in the right way to take the listener on this satisfying philosophical journey. Affirm to them that we CAN see the stars!

This piece was inspired by and written for my wife Cindy, who definitely helps to keep my eyes fixed in the right place. May you have great peace and incredible success with this work!



Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

We Can See The Stars

for SATB Voices with Piano Accompaniment

Text from "The Stars Above the Sea" by
AMOS RUSSEL WELLS (1862-1933)

Music by
STEVE PARSONS

Ethereal (♩ = 68)
8^{va}

Piano *mp*

3 Soprano/Alto *mp unis.* Far, far a-way one mys-ter-y greets a -

(8^{va}) *loto* *p*

6 no-ther vast and high, the in - fi - nite of wa-ters meets the

8 Soprano/Alto

in - fi - nite of sky. The

Tenor/Bass

p unis.

In - fi - nite of

10 in - fi - nite of wa-ters meets the in - fi - nite of

sky.

12 sky. The

mf

The

of sky. of sky. The

mf

The

cresc.

14

stars are sing - ing hymns of calm a - bove the sea's un - rest; can

stars are sing - ing hymns of calm a - bove the sea's un - rest; can

mf

16

ev - er that ma - jes - tic psalm dwell in the o - cean's the o - cean's

ev - er that ma - jes - tic psalm dwell in the o - cean's the o - cean's

cresc.
breast?

cresc.

cresc.

19

breast? Oo

breast? Oo

dim.

dim.

dim.

22 Tenor/Bass

mp unis.

What far ho - ri - zon dim and low the

mp

25

sweet so - lu - tion finds, where earth's tu - mul - tuous yearn - ings know the

27 Soprano/Alto

mp unis.

Peace of heav'n - ly

peace of heav'n - ly minds? Where

29

minds,

earth's tu - mul - tuous year - ings know the peace of heav'n - ly

31

heav'n-ly minds? *cresc.*

heav'n - ly minds? *mf*

And

minds? *cresc.*

And

33

still the sky's im - per - ial grace the toss - ing o - cean mars; we

still the sky's im - per - ial grace the toss - ing o - cean mars; we

mf

35 *rit.* we can see the

can - not see the meet - ing place, but we can see,

can - not see the meet - ing place, but we can see,

rit. 6

f a tempo stars, we can see the

a tempo f we can see the stars, #8

we can see the stars,

f a tempo

39 stars, we can see the

we can see the stars, #8

we can see the stars,

41 *ff* stars, the

ff we can see the stars,

ff we can see the stars

43 stars. *f* And

the stars. *f*

the stars.

45

still the sky's im - per - ial grace the toss - ing o - cean mars; we

still the sky's im - per - ial grace the toss - ing o - cean mars; we

f

47 *mf* but we can see _____
 can - not see the meet - ing place, *mf* we can see _____

can - not see the meet - ing place,

mf

49 *rit.* _____ *mp*
 the

we can see *mf* *rit.* _____ *mp*
mf we can see _____

rit. *mp*

rit. *mp*

52 *a tempo*

stars, _____

a tempo

stars, _____

8va-

a tempo

54 *rit.* *p*

the stars, _____

rit. *p*

the

(8va)

rit.

57

stars, _____

p

pp

8va-



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Steve Parsons

Steve's music is energetic and fun. Student's will be captivated by his heroic film-score like music. He has a wealth of experience composing outside of educational music that brings an exciting freshness to his pieces.

We Can See the Stars

This beautiful and soaring piece is full of celestial wonder, with subtle contemporary added-note chords and a sparkling accompaniment. Careful voice leading and accessible vocal ranges make this the perfect fit for any choir, and the text imparts a message of peace that's both timely and timeless.

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