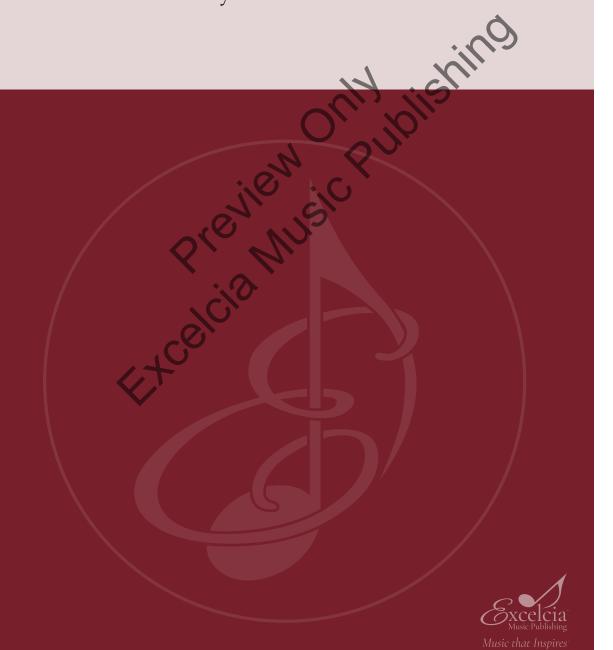


We Can See the Stars

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



About the Composer

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 is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director.

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: Nunsense and Nunsense A-Men! (music preparation, NY,) The Tick (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!



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**





















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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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