

IF I CAN STOP ONE HEART FROM BREAKING

MUSIC: MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

TEXT: EMILY DICKINSON

THE MUSIC OF
MICHAEL JOHN
TROTTA

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA COMPOSER

"appealing melodic lines, tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors . . . rapturous." (Gramophone)

Fueled by a passion for combining tradition and innovation, American composer Michael John Trotta (b.1978) creates music that resonates with modern audiences around the world. From Carnegie Hall to cathedrals and concert halls around the world, he creates "elegant, singable music with a strong, spiritual heft" (Choir and Organ Magazine).

Seasoned by his experience as a conductor at the primary, secondary, and university levels – as well as a church music director – his works are infused with an "intimate knowledge of the human voice and a rare sensitivity to the capabilities of a choral ensemble" (Fanfare). The "dynamic interplay of time-honored musical gestures with present-day sonorities" (Choral Scholar) create "tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors" (Gramophone).

In addition to a significant output of music for unaccompanied choir, he has written nine choral-orchestral works on a larger scale. His most recent work, "Requiem," was recorded by Tenebrae Choir (Nigel Short, conductor). Recent collaborations include the London Voices and the London Symphony Orchestra.

His select concert and sacred music is published by Hampton Roads Music Group and is distributed by Excelcia Music.. For more information, a complete list of compositions, or to get in touch, visit his official website www.mjttrotta.com.

He commands an intimate knowledge of the human voice and a rare sensitivity to the capabilities of a choral ensemble. This, combined with his degrees in music education and a doctorate in choral conducting, make him a favorite conductor with ensembles in the United States and around the world.

Trotta's unique blend of engaging and artistic music creates opportunities to experience new music and empowers individuals to realize their artistic potential. His engaging style fuses tradition and innovation to bring artistry and excellence within reach for thousands of musicians each year.

Driven by a desire to support hardworking directors who work to bring out the best in their ensembles, Trotta has developed keynotes that connect conductors to the educational and artistic goals that drew them to the profession in the first place. "Your Perfect Choir," "Developing Artistry," and "Empowering Ensembles" create experiences that connect people to the power of music and its ability transcend barriers and teach us more about each other and ourselves.

An ardent advocate for under-resourced and overworked arts organizations, Trotta has pioneered the development of the consortium model of commissioning. As a result, the opportunity to premiere a major work for choir and orchestra is now within reach for more choirs than ever before.

Passionate about removing barriers to new music and artistic excellence, Trotta has created and funded a new initiative that distributes grants to choir directors and scholarships to future choral directors.

When he is not traveling for guest conducting or composer residencies, Dr. Trotta resides in the New York City metro area and spends his time at the beach in New Jersey with his wife Rachel and his daughter Gabriella.



Commissioned by the Fuquay Varina Choral Program
in honor of Jane Bruer, Susan Martin, and all families affected by cancer.

If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking

SA, piano

Emily Dickinson

Michael John Trotta, ASCAP

With Great Hope ♩ = ca. 72
espr.

Piano

5 SA. *rit.* *a tempo unis. mp*

rit. *a tempo*

If I can stop one heart from break - ing,

8

I shall not live in vain; if I can ease one life the

11

aching, or cool one pain,

14

mf

If I can stop one heart from breaking,

16

I shall not live in vain;

18

if I can ease one life the aching,

20

or cool one pain,

mp

22 S *mf*

or help one faint-ing rob - in un-to his nest a -

A *mf*

or help one faint-ing rob - in

25

gain, if I can help one —

un - to his nest a gain,

27

rob - in, I shall not live in vain.

I shall not live in vain.

f

f

f

30

I shall not live in vain.

I shall not live in vain.

mp

p

rit.

33 *a tempo* Optional Solo

mf Ah, _____

SA
unis. *mf*

If I can stop one heart from break - ing,

a tempo
mp

35

ah, _____

I shall not live in vain, if I can ease one life the

38

ah! _____

ach - ing, or cool one pain, _____

mp

This block contains the musical notation for measures 38, 39, and 40. It features a vocal line with a long note on 'ah!' in measure 38, followed by the lyrics 'ach - ing, or cool one pain,' in measures 39 and 40. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present in measure 40. A large watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

41

Ah, _____

mf

or help one faint-ing rob - in, or help one faint-ing

This block contains the musical notation for measures 41, 42, and 43. The vocal line begins with 'Ah,' in measure 41, followed by the lyrics 'or help one faint-ing rob - in, or help one faint-ing' in measures 42 and 43. The piano accompaniment continues with a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 41. A large watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

44

ah, ah!

rob - in, if I can help one faint-ing rob - in

47

un - to his nest a - gain,

un - to his nest a - gain,

mp

49 *mp*

I shall not live

mp

I shall not live

mp

53 *p* *rit.*

in vain.

p

in vain.

rit.

p

pp

Bestsellers from:

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA COMPOSER

"appealing melodic lines, tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors . . . rapturous." (Gramophone)

All of Us Be Free	SATB, unaccompanied (opt. solo)	HRMG1736
Alleluia	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG1948
Ave Verum Corpus	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2473
Dies Irae (from Requiem)	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2042
Exsultate Justi	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2653
I Will Lift My Eyes	SA(T)B, unaccompanied	HRMG2572
Jubilate Deo	SA(T)B, unaccompanied	HRMG2491
Love's Pure Light, Silent Night	SATB, piano (opt. oboe)	HRMG1941
Lux Aeterna (from Requiem)	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2144
O Magnum Mysterium	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2161.4
O Nata Lux	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2472
Psalm 150	SATB, unaccompanied (opt. solo)	HRMG1837
Silent Night, Holy Night	SATB, piano (opt. orchestra)	HRMG2551
Surge Illuminare	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2471
The First Noel	SATB, piano (opt. orchestra)	HRMG2451
The Lord is My Shepherd	SATB, piano	HRMG1738
There Is No Rose	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2651
Ubi Caritas	SATB, unaccompanied (opt. solo)	HRMG1838
You Are My Refuge	SATB, unaccompanied	HRMG2043

Multimovement and Major Works

Light Shines in the Darkness	28'	SATB, organ or piano (opt. strings)	HRMG1835
Gloria	12'	SATB, organ, brass, perc. (opt. orch.)	HRMG1951
Magnificat	40'	SATB, chamber orch. or full orch.	HRMG2051
Te Deum	13'	SATB, org., brass, perc. or ch. orch.	HRMG2151
Venite Adoremus	20'	SATB, chamber orch. or full orch.	HRMG2161
Intimations of Immortality	21'	SATB, piano (opt. str., oboe, horn)	HRMG2261
Requiem	40'	SATB, chamber orch. or full orch.	HRMG2351

"tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors . . . rapturous"
– Gramophone

"informs the thoughts and aspirations of the people and the time"
– The Choral Scholar

"inspired and deeply stirring . . . rich and vivid"
– Fanfare

"elegant, singable music with a strong spiritual heft"
– Choir and Organ

"effectively carries out that dialogue between the [music] and the modern listener"

"a perfect balance of respectful homage to . . . the past . . . and a thoroughly modern compositional language"

– The Choral Journal