

Jake Runestad

I WAS LOVE

Treble solo, SATB choir (divisi), percussion, & piano



Text

Revery by Fenton Johnson

I was the starlight,
I was the moonlight,
Before the dawning
 Of my life;
I was the river,
I was the glowing,
I was the singing,
 I was love.

I was the sunlight,
I was the twilight,
I was the vision
 Ere my birth;
I was the summer,
I was the autumn,
I was the all-time—
 I was love.

[Public domain text adapted by the composer.]

Program Note

Fenton Johnson was an important literary voice in the USA and forerunner of the Harlem Renaissance, a resurgence of African American arts and culture based in Harlem, New York City. Born in Chicago, Johnson's art was influenced by his experience as an African American man living in a divided society. This poem, *Revery*, speaks to the deep connection we have as living beings on this planet. As all things are made of stardust, we are interconnected over millions of years of life – to lives before and after our own. This universality is a profound reminder of our connectedness across our human-created boundaries.

About the Composer



Considered “one of the best of the younger American composers” (Chicago Tribune), award-winning composer and conductor **Jake Runestad** has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations including Voces8, Washington National Opera, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Seraphic Fire, the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, the Pacific Chorale, and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. “The Hope of Loving,” the first album dedicated to Runestad’s choral music, recorded by Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare, received a 2020 GRAMMY® Award nomination. In 2019, Jake became one of the youngest composers ever awarded the prestigious Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association.

Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers in the world, and his music is praised for speaking to the head and the heart. Jake Runestad holds a Master’s degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts.

Learn more at: JakeRunestad.com

Performance Time

c. 6:00

Instrumentation

Treble Solo
SATB choir (divisi)
Percussion (3 players):
 1. Shaker (can be played by choir member)
 2. Suspended cymbal
 2. Drum kit (or cajón)
Piano
(Electric bass would be awesome, too!)

Performance Note

Soloist should employ a crossover singing style – supported and present and with the freedom and nuance of popular music singing. Improvisations should be in a similar style – a la American pop and gospel music.

Commissioned by the University of Pretoria Tuks Camerata, Michael Barrett, conductor,
and the Barnsley Youth Choir, Mat Wright, conductor.

I WAS LOVE

Fenton Johnson
(1888-1958)

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

Freely flowing ♩=60

Soprano *pp ethereal* *poco*

Alto *pp ethereal* *poco*

Tenor *pp ethereal* *poco*

Bass *pp ethereal* *poco*

Piano *mp feathery* *sim.*

Red.
+ una corda (soft) - keep down until m. 19

4

S

A

T

B

Pno.

poco

4 \wedge ped. sim.

6

S

A

T

B

Pno.

8 *mf* upward release

S

A

T

B

mf upward release

mf upward release

mf upward release

Pno. *mf* *sub. mp*

8

Treble/Mezzo Solo:
mp espr. with a soulful, pop/crossover style

10

Solo

I was the star - light, I was the

Pno.

10

13

Solo

moon - light, be - fore the dawn - ing

Pno.

13

16

Solo *f*

of my life;

S *ppp* *mf*

Life.

A *ppp* *mf*

Life.

Pno. *mf*

19

Solo *mf*

I was the

Pno. *sub. mp*

senza una corda

21

Solo

ri - ver, I was the

S

A

Choir *pp warm*

T

B

oo. stagger breathing

Pno.

23

Solo

glow - ing, I was the sing - ing,

Choir

pp warm stagger breathing

Pno.

23

26

Solo

I was love,

Choir

Pno.

26

29

Solo

S

A

T

B

Pno.

I was love.

29

31 *poco accel.*

Solo

S

A

T

B

Pno.

Love, love, love,

Love, love, love,

mp

I was the

poco accel.

33 $\text{♩} = 72$

S love, love, love,
love, love, love,

A love, love, love,
love, love, love,

T *mp* I was the sun - light, *sim.* I was the
sim.

B sun - light, I was the twi - light,

Perc. [Shaker] [Continue shaker to m. 77]

Pno. *mf*

36 love, love, love,
love, love, love,

A love, love, love,
love, love, love,

T twi light, *3* I was the vi - sion, ere my
3

B I was the vi - sion, ere my

Pno.

poco accel.

39

S love, love.

A love, love.

T birth; I was the

B birth; I was the

Perc. Sus. Cym. soft mallets *p*

Pno. poco accel.

39

41 *mf* =76

S was the sum - mer,

A I was the sum - mer, *sim.*

T sum - mer, I was the *sim.*

B sum - mer, I was the

Perc. *mf*

Pno. *f* =76

41

43 *sim.*
S I was the au - tumn, I was the
A *sim.*
I was the au - tumn, I was the
T au - tumn, I was the all - time,
B au - tumn, I was the all - time,
Pno.
43

46
S all - time, I was love.
A all time, I was love.
T I was love. I was the
B I was love. I was the
Perc. *p*
Pno.
46

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for SATB choir and piano. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 43-45, and the second system covers measures 46-48. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have lyrics: 'I was the autumn, I was the all-time'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with chords in the left hand. A large watermark 'Not for Performance' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

49

S *f* I was the star - light,

A *mf* I was the star - light,

T *f* star - light, I was the

B *f* star - light, I was the

Perc. *mf* Backbeat with snare on 4

Pno. *f*

51

S I was the twi - light, I

A I was the twi - light, I was the

T twi - light, I was the sum - mer,

B twi - light, I was the sum - mer,

Perc.

Pno.

54

S
was the sum - mer, was I was the sing - ing,

A
sum - mer, I was the sing - ing,

T
I was the sing - ing, I was

B
I was the sing - ing, I was

Perc.
f

Pno.

54

57

S
p love, love, love, love, love,

A
p love, love, love, love, love,

T
p love, love, love, love, love,

B
p love, love, love, love, love,

Perc.
sub. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Pno.
sub. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

57

Soulful Groove

Soloist improvise on lyrics and open vowels to m. 73
Choir claps on 2 & 4, continue to m. 73.

60

S
love, _____ star - light, moon - light,

A
love, _____ star - light, moon - light,

T
love, _____ star - light, moon - light,

B
love, _____ star - light, moon - light,

Perc.
P *mf* *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*
Drum fill Full-on rockin' backbeat [drums continue playing to m. 78]

Pno.
mf

60

63

S
mp ri - ver, *mf* glow - ing, *mfp* sun - light, *mp*

A
mp ri - ver, *mf* glow - ing, *mfp* sun - light, *mp*

T
mp ri - ver, *mf* glow - ing, *mfp* sun - light, *mp*

B
mp ri - ver, *mf* glow - ing, *mfp* sun - light, *mp*

Pno.
v

This portion has been left blank in hopes you will purchase this score.
Thank you for supporting independent artists!

69

S *mf* star - light, *mf* moon - light, *mf* ri - ver,

A *mf* star - light, *mf* moon - light, *mf* ri - ver,

T *mf* star - light, *mf* moon - light, *mf* ri - ver,

B *mf* star - light, *mf* moon - light, *mf* ri - ver,

Perc. star - light, moon - light, ri - ver,

Pno. *f*

69

v d || φ ||

v φ ||

v φ ||

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a voice and piano ensemble, covering measures 69 to 71. The score is written in a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. It features five vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and two piano staves (Percussion and Piano). The vocal parts are marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "star - light, moon - light, ri - ver,". The piano accompaniment includes a percussion part with a simple rhythmic pattern and a piano part with a more complex texture, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score is divided into three measures, each with a repeat sign at the beginning. A large, semi-transparent watermark "Piano for" is overlaid across the center of the page.

Stop claps, end improvisation

72

S *mf* *fmp* *mf*
glow - ing, love, love,

A *mf* *fmp* *mf*
glow - ing, love, love,

T *mf* *fmp* *mf*
glow - ing, love, love,

B *mf* *fmp* *mf*
glow - ing, love, love,

Pno.

74

S *f*
love, love, love, love, love, love,

A *f*
love, love, love, love, love, love,

T *f*
love, love, love, love, love, love,

B *f*
love, love, love, love, love, love,

Pno.

Musical score for voice and piano, measures 77-80. The score is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It features vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), a Percussion (Perc.) part, and a Piano (Pno.) part. The lyrics "love." are written under the vocal lines. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *ff*, *p*, and *sub. mp*, as well as performance instructions like *rit.* and *cresc.*. A large watermark "NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

77

rit.
mp *ff*

S
love.

mp *ff*

A
love.

mp *ff*

T
love.

mp *ff*

B
love.

Perc. *p* *cresc.* *ff* 3

rit.
sub. mp *ff*

Pno.

77

79 **a tempo**

S *pp* ethereal

A *pp* ethereal

T *pp* ethereal

B *pp* ethereal

Perc. *mf* choke
Drums tacet

Pno. **a tempo**
sub. p
+ soft pedal

81 *poco*

S *poco*

A *poco*

T *poco*

B *poco*

Pno.

81

83

S

A

T

B

Pno.

poco

poco

poco

poco

85

S

A

T

B

Pno.

pp

pp

ah

ah

88

S

A

Perc.

Pno.

88

f

f

f

p

ff

sus. cym.

choke

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Minneapolis, MN, USA