

“...that heart’s joy that needs no name”

3 poems by Stephen Gottschalk

for mezzo-soprano and cello

*Composed in memory of
Stephen Gottschalk*

Jennie Gottschalk

1. Listening

If you listened through time
like the smallest
most attentive being,
you could trace those steps
in their abundant pattern
the trail of the dust
during the forty desert days,
passing by Chorazin
then through Nain
the soft music of crunching pebbles
before the sea's lap-lap began,
the crackling of weeds
on the hilly ascent
then the drumbeat of dust
on the southward march,
-the staggering steps,
the sudden silence
and beginning again.

2. The Desert Fathers

Help me to love Thee O Lord my God.
Lift me into thy praise. The Fathers,
the Desert Fathers, saw the desert rocks
fertile of thy Love. That Love they sought,
measureless, bountiful of that heart's joy
that needs no name. O let that heart be
mine and ours today. Bespeak in us that
Holy Silence where no ego blocks thy Word,
but all are gathered in vast humility
and sacred kindness abiding.
Then these the Fathers of that holy silence become
our brothers, eternal companions in the holiness
of Love, speaking little, feeling much, even the touch
of Thy breath, oh God, reaching out to reclaim
us, one as by one, never solitary but one with
each other as one with Thee.

3.

Could we but see
could we understand
the arm uplifted from
the drowning wave
is gripped in the power
of thy hand.

Each one held in his
full embrace,
all behold thee
Face to face

Still are the storms
steady the sea
Earth has now
given its all to Thee.

Nothing is lost
but all is won
the infinite ascent
has now begun.

1. Listening

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$

p

If you lis-tened through time like the small-est

pizz

p

8

most at-ten-tive be-ing, you could

mp

arco

mp

15

trace those steps in their a-bun-dant pat-tern

mp

arco

mp

21

the trail of the dust du-ring the for-ty de-sert days,

mp cresc. *mf*

cresc. *mf*

26

pass-ing by Cho-ra-zin then through Nain

p

32

p *cresc.*

the soft music of crun-ching peb-bles be - fore the

p

38

mp *p*

sea's lap - lap be - gan, the crack-ling of weeds on the

mp *p* poco sul ponticello

43

p

hil-ly ascent then the drum-beat of dust

p ord. pizz

49

on the south-ward march, the stag-ger-ing steps,

55

the sudden si-lence and be - gin-ning a - gain.

62

If you lis-tened through time like the small-est most at-

69

ten-tive be - ing, you could trace those steps

75

the trail the mu-sic the crack-ling

82

the as - cent the drum-beat the

89

march, the steps, the si-lence

non rit.

2. The Desert Fathers

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

mp *mp cresc.*

Help me to love thee O Lord my God. Lift me

mp *cresc.*

7

mf *p*

in - to thy praise. The Fa - thers, the De - - - sert

mf *p*

14

cresc. *mf*

Fa - thers, saw the de - sert rocks fer - tile of thy Love.

cresc.

20

mp

That Love they sought,

mf dim. *mp*

26

mea - - - - - sure-less, boun -

32

- - - ti - ful of that heart's joy that needs no name. O let that

37

heart be mine and ours to - day. Be - speak in

43

us that Ho - ly Si - lence where no e - go blocks thy Word.

48

Then these Fa - thers of that ho - ly si - lence be - come our bro - thers,

54

speaking little, feel - - - - - ing much,

mf

mf

59

ev-en the touch of Thy breath, oh God,

p cresc.

f

p

63

reach - ing out to re-claim us, one as by one, ne - ver so-li - ta - ry but

p

68

one with each o - ther as one with Thee.

pp

72

3.

♩ = c. 76

mp *f*

Could we but see could we under - stand the

mp *f*

7

arm up - lif-ted from the drown - ing wave is gripped in the po-wer of thy hand.

mp

13 *mp*

Each one held in his full _____ em - brace, _____ all be - hold _____ thee

mp

18 *p*

Face _____ to face _____ Still are the storms

p (pizz and arco at equal volume)

25

pp

stea - dy the sea Earth has now gi - ven its all to Thee

pizz. arco

pp

33

mp cresc. *f*

No - thing is lost No - thing is lost but all is won

cresc. *f*

40

p

all _____ is won

p *pp*

47

pp

the in - fi - nite as - cent as -

pp

52

cent as - cent _____ has now _____ be - gun

pp