



Aquidneck
Singers

Aquidneck Singers Newsletter

Volume 1
May 26, 2020

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Want to be featured in our
Singer Spotlight? Click [here](#) to
complete the Questionnaire!

Contact us at
aquidnecksingers@gmail.com

Singer Spotlight:



What is an interesting thing about you that few people know? I have seen hundreds of bands and singers live.

What is the last book you read?

Gone Girl

What is a book on your bedside table that you've been meaning to read, but haven't yet?

Commonwealth

What has been a challenge about quarantine? What has been a joy?

Challenge- not being able to hug people

Joy- finally having time to learn new things

Alexandrea Carreiro

Voice Part: Alto

Favorite Aquidneck Singers song (so far)? Cuatro Baladas Amarillas

Why is it your favorite song? I loved learning new words in a different language. I really like the diversity of music in each different section.

What is your favorite song that you have ever sung with a choir? Why?

Reflection from Milan, I had my first solo.

What is your "go-to" music? Anything acoustic

What are THREE words you would use to describe yourself? Empathetic, dedicated, outdoorsy

Occupation (if retired, what was your occupation?) Biology teacher

What cities/towns have you lived in throughout your life? Somerset

What is your "can't live without" food?

Pizza

What is your idea of a perfect Saturday or "day off"? Sitting outside on my hammock reading a book, maybe going for a hike or kayaking

Where would you like to travel that you have not been? Japan

Where is a place you have visited that you would love to go back to? Iceland

Song Feature: La Lluvia by Stephen Hatfield



The following is a chapter Elizabeth contributed to [Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir Volume 5](#) (2019).

La Lluvia (“The Rain”) **Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)**

About the composer

Stephen Hatfield is a Canadian composer, conductor, clinician and workshop leader specializing in choral music. His compositions, which he began composing in response to a small music budget at the high school where he was teaching, are primarily sung a cappella.

About the composition

Based on a panpipe melody from Ecuador, Hatfield interweaves the melodies to create an illusion of rain with a steady rhythmic pulse and energy throughout. Hatfield has composed numerous works for the Canadian choir the Amabile Youth Singers and this one is dedicated to the ensemble and their directors, John Barron and Brenda Zadorsky. Many of his works have been recorded by the group including this piece. Shakers are used throughout the piece; one pulses consistently throughout while a second one along with a vibraphone are added when the C melody (see below) is presented.

Stephen Hatfield provided this insight regarding the piece in an email interaction (dated April 26, 2018):

My piece is in fact based on an instrumental piece called “La Lluvia”, which I first heard performed by a group called Alpamayo. My arrangement tries to suggest more of an actual rainstorm, whereas the Alpamayo version is presented more as a strophic folk song without words. Yes, there are many stylistic and tonal similarities between “La Lluvia” and other panpipe songs. There is a certain “feel” that you can recognize, the same way one recognizes the “feel” of an Irish dance tune.

I’ve lived much of my life in the temperate rainforests on Vancouver Island, and when you stand under a tall tree in the rain, you can hear the rain and feel the wind and yet it takes forever for the raindrops to shake through the layers of canopy in those tall trees -- so finally, layer after layer, the rain reaches you. That is the mood I wished to create – for myself at least – with “La Lluvia”.



Song feature continued...

Musical Elements

MELODY: “La Lluvia” is comprised of 4 musical themes presented by each voice part and with slight variations throughout. In addition to the themes, voice parts can be heard “sighing” in short 3-note phrases or providing an ostinato or pedal tone. Though much of this material is repeated throughout the piece, the different combinations give the listener a sense of the ever-changing and unpredictable nature of the rain. While the rain is comforting and lilting in some sections, it is quickly interrupted by a burst of “lie li lie” like thunder!

The following list outlines the various musical themes and repeated phrases found throughout the piece. The measures provided are the measures when they are first introduced in the piece.

Musical themes

A: soprano 1 mm. 1-4

B: soprano 2/alto mm. 5-12 (note: the B section is split into 2 shorter phrases; B1 is mm. 5-8 and B2 is mm. 9-12)

C: soprano 1 mm. 29-32

3-note “sighs”

Soprano 1: F#5-E5-D5 followed by A4-G4-F#4

Alto: F#4-E4-D4 followed by D4-C#4-B3

Ostinato

Alto: mm. 29-32

Suggested Listening

Hatfield, Stephen, Amabile Youth Singers, John Barron, and Brenda Zadorsky, writers.
Amabile Youth Singers and Stephen Hatfield. Amabile Youth Singers, 1997, CD.

Text and Translation

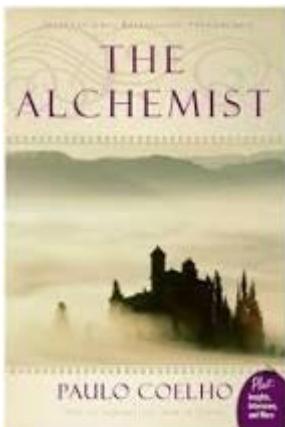
This piece uses neutral syllables such as “doo”, “oo”, “la” and “lie li lie” to emulate the sounds of rain.

Alex recommends

Books

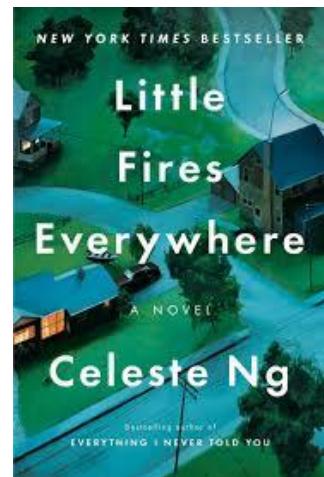
Little Fires Everywhere- Celeste Ng

A story about a two very different families whose worlds collide, causing them to see new differences and similarities between each other.



The Alchemist- Paulo Coelho

A beautifully written story about a boy finding his way through life. This author uses fantastic imagery and metaphor to tell the tale.



Podcasts

[The Jungle Prince](#) - New York Times

In this podcast and journalist tells a unique story about a prince living outside her village in India.



[Ologies](#)- Alie Ward

Each episode of this podcast is an interview with a different scientist of each ology. I really enjoyed episode 3, which talks about primatology.

[The happiness lab](#)- Dr. Laurie Santos

In this podcast Dr. Laurie Santos talks about the science behind happiness. She is a professor at Brown University and teaches a happiness class there. It is the largest class ever taught at Brown and gained national attention.

Singer Recommendations