HEARTSONGS

FOREWORD

"Heartsongs" is a song cycle inspired by the life and words of the amazing young poet, Mattie J.T. Stepanek. (See biography on page 3.) Through his poetry and personal appearances, Mattie impacted the world with an authenticity of spirit rarely seen.

There are eight choral songs in the cycle, and they represent some of the important elements of Mattie's writing. Six of the movements are based on actual poems written by Mattie. Two of the movements are my personal "Heartsongs," with original texts that connect to specific aspects of Mattie's message. In his first book Mattie left blank pages for people to write their own "Heartsongs." These songs may be sung as a complete cycle or may be performed individually. An optional narration is also included.

In between the songs you can read Mattie's poems as he wrote them. Simple, and yet profound in their insights, these lines are treasured testimonies of the human spirit, and gentle admonitions for us to listen and learn.

It is essential to have young voices sing this music. It is their "Heartsongs" that can truly change the world and bring Mattie's dreams for a better world to glorious reality.

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

HEARTSONG

Words based on the poem "Heartsong" by MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK March, 1996 Music by JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

in "Journey Through Heartsongs" (Hyperion, 2002)



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BUTTERFLY SUMMER

Words based on the poem "Butterfly Summer" by MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK August, 1998

Music by JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

in "Celebrate Through Heartsongs" (Hyperion, 2002)



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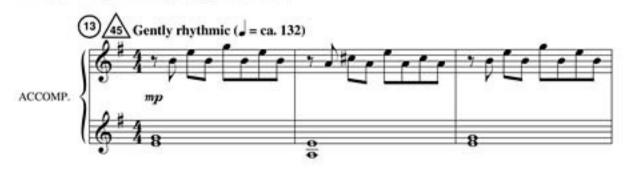
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SONGS OF THE WIND

Words based on the poem "Songs of the Wind" by MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK July, 1998 Words and music by JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

in "Hope Through Heartsongs" (Hyperion, 2002)







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