

ATHABASCA

for SSA choir with piano

words and music by

CAIT NISHIMURA

Still is the air all around me,
easy to breathe in.
I wish I could stay,
make this my home,
just me alone.

Still, the mountains stand
all dressed in white.
I hold on tight
to the feeling of being here
beneath the trees,
the evergreens.

Still, the river flows
gently below the ice and snow.
I wish the river
would sweep me away
to never be seen again.

ATHABASCA was written at the shores of the Athabasca River in Jasper, Alberta, Canada. It was late March, and the snow was just starting to melt enough to reveal the fast-moving river beneath the ice. I spent the day hiking trails along the river, and did not encounter another person the entire time; the text in this piece was inspired by this sense of solitude. The flowing, graceful style of both the vocal and piano parts imitates the motion of the river.

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PERUSAL SCORE ONLY
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Flowing (♩ = 108)

The score is written for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, and Piano. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as 'Flowing' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The dynamic is *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 8, and the second system covers measures 9 through 16. The lyrics are: 'Still is the air all around me, easy to breathe in.' and 'I wish I could stay, make this my home, just me alone.' The piano part includes a rehearsal mark '(rehearsal only until m.33)'. A large watermark 'CAIT NISHIMURA SCORES ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Soprano 1
mp 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Still is the air all around me, easy to breathe in.

Soprano 2

Alto

Piano
mp (rehearsal only until m.33) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

S 1
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
I wish I could stay, make this my home, just me alone.

S 2

A

Pno.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

S 1 Still the moun-tains stand, all dressed in white, I hold on tight to the

S 2 *mp* Still they stand in white, hold tight to the

A

Pno.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

S 1 feel - ing of be-ing here, be-neath the trees, the ev - er - greens.

S 2 feel - ing here, be - neath the ev - er -

A *mp*

Pno.

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 Ah,

33 34 35 36 37 38 39

S 1 Still the ri - ver flows gent - ly be - low the ice and snow.

S 2 greens. Ri - ver flows be - low the snow.

A still the ri - ver flows be - low the snow.

Pno. *p* (Play in performance)

40 41 42 43 44 45 46

S 1 I wish the ri - ver could sweep me aw - ay to ne - ver be

S 2 I wish the ri - ver could sweep me to ne - ver be

A I wish the ri - ver could sweep me to ne - ver be

Pno.

S 1
seen a - gain

S 2
seen a - gain.

A
seen a - gain.

Pno.

47 48 49 50 51 52

mp

Ped.

S 1
Still the ri - ver flows so gent - ly be - low the

S 2
Still the ri - ver flows so gent - ly be - low the

A
Still it flows so gent - ly be - low the

Pno.

53 54 55 56 57 58

mf

59 60 61 62 63 64

S 1
snow. I wish the ri - ver could sweep me a - way _____

S 2
snow. I wish the ri - ver could sweep me a - way _____

A
snow. I wish the ri - ver could sweep me a - way

Pno.

65 66 67 68 69 70

S 1
to ne - ver be seen a - gain. _____

S 2
to ne - ver be seen a - gain. Oo _____

A
to ne - ver be seen ah, oo _____

Pno.

71 72 73 *f* 74 75 Div.

S 1

Ne - ver be seen I'll ne - ver be

S 2

A

Pno.

76 77 78 79 80 81

S 1

seen a - gain. Ne - ver be

S 2

A

Pno.

82 83 84 85 86

S 1
seen I'll ne - ver be seen a - gain.

S 2
mp

A
mp
Still the moun - tains

Pno.
82 83 84 85 86
Still they
(rehearsal only to end)

87 88 89 90 91 92 93

S 1
I hold on tight to the feel - ing

S 2
stand all dressed in white. I hold on tight to the feel - ing

A
stand in white, hold tight to the feel -

Pno.
87 88 89 90 91 92 93

94 95 96 97 98 99 100

S 1
of be - ing here, be - neath the trees, the ev - er - greens.

S 2
of be - ing here, be - neath the trees, the ev - er - greens. _____

A
ing here be - neath the trees, the ev - er -

Pno.

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108

S 1
Still is the air all ar - ound me, ea - sy to breathe in.

S 2
Still, is the air 'round me, to breathe in.

A
greens. Is the air 'round me, to breathe in.

Pno.

109 *p* 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117

S 1
I wish I could stay, make this my home, just me _____ a - lone.

S 2

A

109 *p* 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117

Pno.