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# Give Me Hunger

*For SATB (div.) men's chorus*

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Stacy Garrop

## PROGRAM NOTES

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) was an American author known for his hard, unflinching observations that allow readers to experience Sandburg's pride, disdain, love, hatred, and sympathy for humanity through his works. In particular, his poetry grasps the best and worst of mankind, from the noblest aspirations of man to the subjugation of the poor, as well as to the trials and tribulations of the working class. Very few poems exhibit his softer side, and even fewer reflect his thoughts on love. *At a Window* (the poem's original title) is one of these rare gems in his body of work. Sandburg starts the poem angrily, challenging the forces that control the universe to take away all that he has; this anger quickly gives way to a surprising gentleness as he asks for love in place of all else. In my piece (titled *Give Me Hunger*, drawn from the first line of text), I reflect Sandburg's enraged voice with a relentless ostinato (a repeating gesture) coupled with dissonant chords; for the poem's softer side, I employ rich, lush harmonies to anticipate the "coming of a little love." This piece was commissioned by Chanticleer.

-S.G.

**Text for *Give Me Hunger***  
(poem originally titled *At a Window*)  
By Carl Sandburg

Give me hunger,  
O you gods that sit and give  
The world its orders.  
Give me hunger, pain and want,  
Shut me out with shame and failure  
From your doors of gold and fame,  
Give me your shabbiest, weariest hunger!

But leave me a little love,  
A voice to speak to me in the day end,  
A hand to touch me in the dark room  
Breaking the long loneliness.  
In the dusk of day-shapes  
Blurring the sunset,  
One little wandering, western star  
Thrust out from the changing shores of shadow.  
Let me go to the window,  
Watch there the day-shapes of dusk  
And wait and know the coming  
Of a little love.

*"At a Window" from CHICAGO POEMS by Carl Sandburg. Copyright 1916 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company and renewed 1944 by Carl Sandburg. Used by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.*

# Give Me Hunger

Poem by  
Carl Sandburg  
(originally titled *At a Window*)

STACY GARROP  
Spring 2013

$\text{♩} = 152-160$  *Strict tempo; tense*

SOPRANO *p* ————— *mp*  
Give me hun - ger,

ALTO

TENOR *p* *Sim.*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

BASS *p*  
Give me

*Always sing with equal emphasis on each pitch* *p*

Piano  
(rehearsal only)

4

S. *p* —————  
Give me hun - ger,

A. *p* ————— *mp*  
Give me hun - ger, O you gods

T. *p*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *p*  
hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give

7 *mp* *mf*

S. O you gods that sit and give the world its

A. *p* *mp*  
Give me hun - ger, hun - ger,

T. *8*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *8*  
me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger,

10

S. or - ders.

A. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
Give me hun - ger, hun - ger, Give me hun - ger,

T. *8*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *8*  
Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun -

*Solo; the accent indicates a short, crisp, bell-like attack on each note, then immediately back off (a subile fp)*  
*mp*



19

S. *mp*  
fail - ure From your doors of gold and fame,

A. *mp*  
fail - ure From your doors of gold and fame,

T. *p*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *p*  
Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me

B. *(solo)*  
you gods

*mp*

22

S. *mf*  
From your doors of gold and fame, *Gliss.*

A. *mf*  
From your doors of gold and fame, *Gliss.*

T. *mf*  
Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *mf*  
hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger,

B. *(solo)* *p* *mf*  
O you gods O you gods

*mf*

Always sing with equal emphasis on each pitch

25

*mp*

S. Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give

A. Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

T. Give me hun - ger,

B. Give me hun - ger,

*mp*

*fp* *Gliss.* *mf*

*fp* *Tutti; Gliss.* *mf*

28

S. me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger,


A. Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

T. O you gods that sit and give The world

B. O you gods that sit and give The world

*fp* *mf*

*fp* *mf*



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43

S. Shut me out with shame and fail - ure

A. Shut me out with shame and fail - ure

T. *mp* Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *mp* Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun -

*Solo; as before*

B. *mp* O you

*mp*

46

S. *mp* From your doors of gold and fame, From your doors of

A. *mp* From your doors of gold and fame, From your doors of

T. *p* Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger, Give me hun-ger,

B. *p* ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me hun - ger, Give me

*(solo)* *(Un-accented) p*

B. *p* gods O

*p*







♩ = 63 Warmly, soothing

With some rubato, but keep the tempo moving

Solo *p*

68

S. *fff* Give me But

A. *fff* Give me

T. *fff* Give me *pp* Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo Oh

B. *fff* Give me *pp* Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo Oh

♩ = 63 Warmly, soothing  
With some rubato, but keep the tempo moving

78

S. *port.* leave me a lit-tle love, But *p*

S. Solo *p* love,

A.

T. Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo Oh

B. Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo Oh

86 (solo)

S. leave me a lit-tle love,


S. (solo) *p* love,

A. Solo *mp* A voice to speak to me in the

T. Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo

B. Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 86, marked as a solo. The Soprano part has the lyrics 'leave me a lit-tle love,'. The Alto part has the lyrics 'love,'. The Tenor and Bass parts have vocalizations 'Oo Oo Oh Oo Oo'. The Alto part has the lyrics 'A voice to speak to me in the'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout. Performance markings include '(solo)', '(solo) p', and 'Solo mp'. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



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116 *mp* *mf*

S. One lit - tle wan - dering, wes - tern star Thrust out Thrust

A. One lit - tle wan - dering, wes - tern star Thrust out Thrust

T. One lit - tle wan - dering, wes - tern star Thrust Thrust out from the chang - ing

B. One lit - tle wan - dering, wes - tern star Thrust Thrust out from the

120 *mp* *p* *Solo p* *pp*

S. out Oo Oh Oo Oh

A. out Oo Oh Oo Oh

T. shores of shad - ow. Let me go to the win - dow, Watch

B. chang - ing shores of shad - ow. Oh Oo

128

*p*

S. Watch And wait And wait And wait and

A. And wait And wait And wait and

(solo) *mp*  
T. there the day-shapes of dusk

T. Watch Watch And wait wait and

B. Oh Oo Watch And wait wait and

*p*

*With longing*

*Accel.*

134

*mp* *mf* *f*

S. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love. Let me

A. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love.

*mp* *mf* *f*

T. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love, know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love. Let me

B. know the com-ing Of a lit-tle know the com-ing Of a lit-tle love.

*mp* *mf* *f*

*With longing* *Accel.*

♩ = 69 *Passionate*

*Poco Rit.* . . . . .

138 *Solo*

S. Let me go \_\_\_\_\_ to the win-dow, Let me go \_\_\_\_\_ the win-dow,

A. *f* go to the win-dow, Let me go to the win-dow, to the win-dow, the win-dow,

T. go to the win-dow, Let me go to the win-dow, to the win-dow, the win-dow,

B. *f* Let me go \_\_\_\_\_ to the win-dow, Let me go to the win-dow, to the win-dow, the win-dow,

♩ = 69 *Passionate* *Poco Rit.* . . . . .

144 ♩ = 60 *Warmly* *Poco Rit.* . . . . .

S. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

T. *Solo p* Let me go \_\_\_\_\_ to the win-dow, and know the com-ing \_\_\_\_\_ Of a lit-tle love. *pp*

T. *pp* Oo Oh Oh Oo Hm

B. *pp* Oo Oh Oh Oo Hm

♩ = 60 *Warmly* *Poco Rit.* . . . . .