

js

James Stephenson

Score

Prayer for a New Mother

*(one of three Advent Carols)
for SATB choir unaccompanied*

James M. Stephenson



www.stephensonmusic.com

Prayer for a New Mother

*In loving memory of John R. "Jack" Larson
Commissioned for the Choir of Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida*

Stephen L. Furches, Organist-Choirmaster Advent 1997

Originally written for SATB Choir, unaccompanied

Adapted for solo soprano, solo violin, strings, and harp

Also adapted for Soprano, violin, and Piano

Written by James M. Stephenson

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SATB Choir

"Prayer for a New Mother"

*In loving memory of John R. "Jack" Larson
Commissioned for the Choir of Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida
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Music: James Stephenson, III

Text: Dorothy Parker

Tranquillo (♩ = 60)

p

1 The things she knew, let her for - get a -

p

The things she knew, let her for - get a -

3 gain: The voic - es in the sky, the fear, the cold, The gap - ing

gain: The voic - es in the sky, the fear, the cold,

6 when herds, and the strange old men pil - ing their gifts of for - eign

rall.

strange - old - men pil - ing their gifts of for - eign
pil - ing their gifts of for - eign

9 *a tempo*

gold. Let her have laugh-ter with her lit-tle one. —

gold. Let her have laugh-ter with her lit-tle one Teach her the

12 *mf* *pp*

end-less tune-less songs to sing. Grant her the right to whis-per to her

end - less — tune-less songs to sing. Grant her the right to whis-per to her

15 *f* *pp*

son the fool-ish things one dare not call a king. Keep from her

son the fool-ish things one dare not call a king. Keep from her

18

dreams the rum-ble of a crowd, — The smell of rough cut wood, — the trail of

dreams the rum-ble of a crowd, — The⁸⁻ smell of rough cut wood, — the trail of

21 *mf*

red, The thick and chil - ly white - ness of the shroud that

mf

red, white-ness of the shroud that

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 21 to 23. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'red,' followed by eighth notes for 'The thick and chil - ly' and a half note for 'white - ness'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present above the vocal line and below the piano line.

24 *rall.* *a tempo*

wraps the strange new bod - y of the dead. Ah, let her

p

wraps the strange new bod y of the dead. Ah, let her

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 24 to 26. The vocal line has a half note 'wraps the strange new bod - y' followed by a half note 'of the dead.' and a half note 'Ah, let her'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *rall.* above the vocal line, *a tempo* above the piano line, and *p* below the piano line.

27

go, kind Lord, where moth - ers go, And boast his pret - ty words and

go, kind Lord, where moth - ers go, And boast his pret - ty words and

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 27 to 29. The vocal line has a half note 'go, kind Lord, where moth - ers go,' followed by a half note 'And boast his pret - ty words and'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

30 *f*

ways. And plan the proud and hap - py years that they shall know to -

f

ways. And plan the proud and hap - py years that they shall know to -

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of music, measures 30 to 32. The vocal line has a half note 'ways. And plan the proud and hap - py years that they shall know to -'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *f* is present above the vocal line and below the piano line.

33 *mf* *rall.* *un poco meno mosso*

geth - er, when her son is grown a man. The things she

geth - er, when her son is grown a man. The things she

36 * *rall.*

knew, let her for - get a - gain: for - get a - gain:

knew, let her for - get a - gain: for - get a - gain:

(Optional Ending)

37 * *rall.*

gain: for - get a - gain:

gain: for - get a - gain: