

This Amazing Life
SA(T)B, piano

Timothy C. Takach

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This Amazing Life

for SA(T)B choir and piano

With a text by the middle school students of Wayzata, MN

Commissioned for the 2015 Wayzata Select Choir Festival,
supported by a grant from the Wayzata Public Schools Education Foundation.



Text:

Sometimes I pour my heart and soul into football.
Sometimes I look at pictures of cats.
Sometimes I drink hot cocoa and play video games.
But I always brush before bed.

Sometimes I think the world will never be perfect.
Sometimes I don't try my best.
Sometimes I get left out, watch the hours go by.
But I always feel like I'm on fire, I feel like I'm free.

Sometimes I feel like I'm invisible,
But when I want to fit in, everyone notices me.
I can do anything when no one's around.
And I'm always scared of failing.

Sometimes I wish the world wouldn't judge me.
Sometimes I feel I can't be myself.
Sometimes I fake a smile to hide my pain.
But I always know you'll be my friend.

Appreciate what you have
And what you've gotten to do.
Appreciate where you are now
And where I am too.

The life you live is amazing.
There are so many people that love you, including me.
Be kind, smart, brave, creative,
The world depends on people like that.

Sometimes I forget who's watching.
Sometimes I remember how good I am.
Sometimes I get pushed down again
But you'll always be there for me.

That's all I ever wanted.

*- Middle school students of Wayzata, MN
- Compiled and edited by Timothy C. Takach*

From the Composer:

"This Amazing Life" was born out of a desire to create new accessible and meaningful music for middle school singers. Chris Larson at Wayzata Central Middle School and I worked together to build a project in which the student singers would help create a new piece of music. I gave them three writing prompts, which they answered one at a time, not knowing what the next would be. The prompts "Sometimes...", "But I always...", and "Dear future self..." yielded amazingly diverse answers. Yet in the scope of the responses, there were a few common themes: passion for hobbies and activities, self-doubt, a conflict between wanting to fit in and also wanting to be noticed, and a call to themselves to live an exciting, meaningful life. Big ideas for 6-8th graders, but ideas that they obviously push around in their brain quite a bit.

I took these pages of raw material and organized them into a cohesive text that becomes a universal access point for others to get to know them as a generation and as individuals. Their words are honest, blunt, poetic, and so hopeful. We talked about the kinds of songs to which they are drawn and tried to pinpoint the musical and textual qualities that are responsible for eliciting their emotions. So when it was finally time for me to sit down and craft music to support their ideas, I took my cue from our conversations and wrote a song. A song for them to sing, to believe in, and to own.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2015



Reviewed as "gorgeous" (Washington Post) and "stunning" (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

Commissioned for the 2015 Wayzata Select Choir Festival,
supported by a grant from the Wayzata Public Schools Education Foundation.

This Amazing Life

for SATB choir and piano

Middle school students of Wayzata, MN
Compiled by TCT

Timothy C. Takach

Driven ♩ = 120

Piano

5

S *mp* Some-times I pour my heart and soul in - to foot - ball.

A *mp* Some-times I pour my heart and soul in - to foot - ball.

T *mp* Some-times I pour my heart and soul in - to foot - ball.

B *mp* Some-times I pour my heart and soul in - to foot - ball.

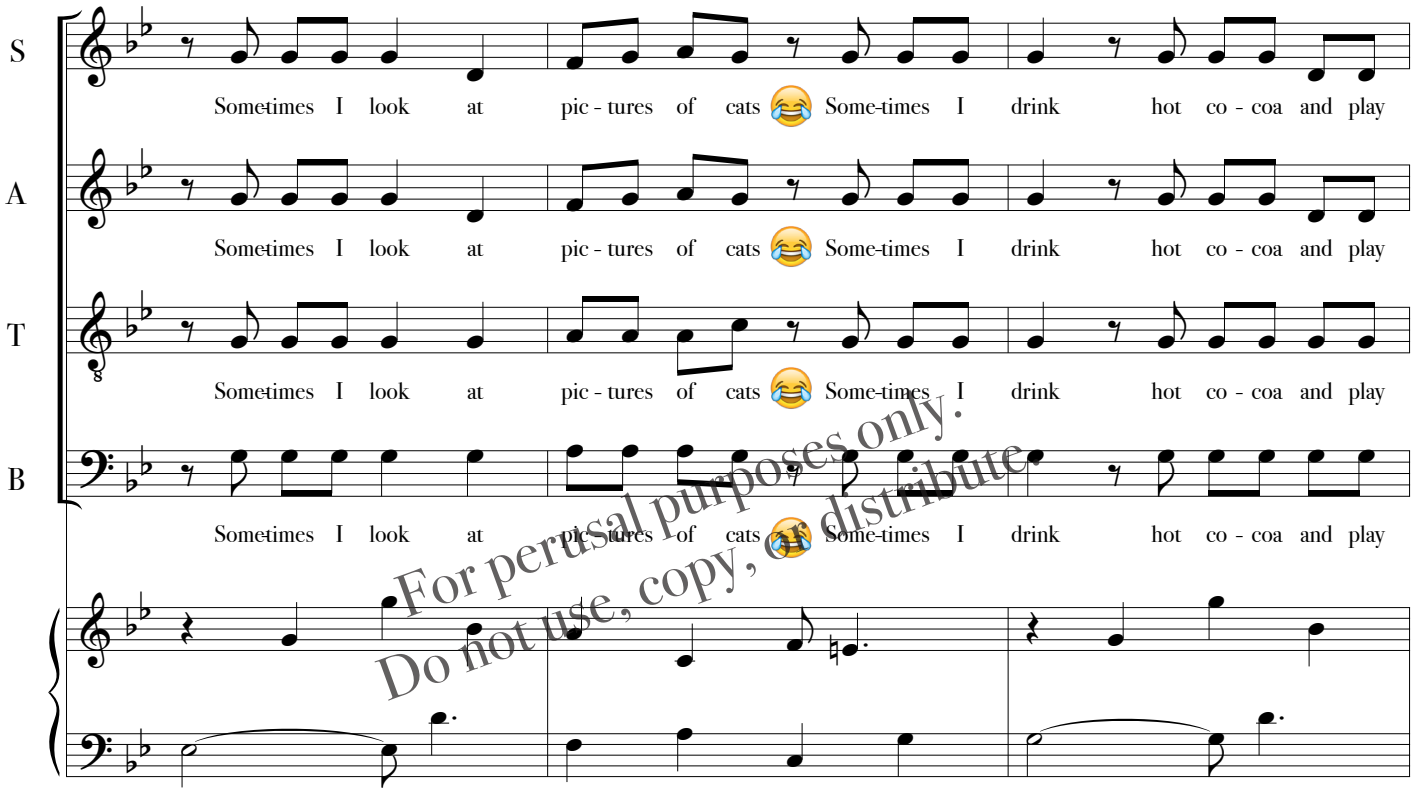
8

S Sometimes I look at pic - tures of cats 🤔 Some-times I drink hot co - coa and play

A Sometimes I look at pic - tures of cats 🤔 Some-times I drink hot co - coa and play

T Sometimes I look at pic - tures of cats 🤔 Some-times I drink hot co - coa and play

B Sometimes I look at pic - tures of cats 🤔 Some-times I drink hot co - coa and play



11

S vid - e - o games. 🎮 But I al - ways brush be - fore _____

A vid - e - o games. 🎮 But I al - ways brush be - fore

T vid - e - o games. 🎮 But I al - ways brush be - fore

B vid - e - o games. 🎮 But I al - ways brush be - fore



14

S bed, I al - ways brush be - fore bed. Sometimes I

A bed, I al - ways brush be - fore bed. Sometimes I

T bed, Sometimes I

B bed, Sometimes I

p *mf* *mf* *mf*

17

S think the world Sometimes I don't I don't

A think the world will nev - er be per - fect. Sometimes I don't

T think the world will nev - er be per - fect. Sometimes I don't

B think the world will nev - er be per - fect. Sometimes I don't

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20

S try — my best Some - times I get left out, 😞 But I *f*

A try — my best Some - times I get left out, 😞 watch the hours go by. But I *f*

T try my best Some - times I get left out, 😞 watch the hours go by. But I *f*

B try my best Some - times I get left out, 😞 watch the hours go by. But I *f*

23

S al - ways feel like I'm on fire, 😎 I feel like I'm — *mf*

A al - ways feel like I'm on fire, 😎 I feel like I'm

T al - ways feel like I'm on fire, 😎

B al - ways feel like I'm on fire, 😎

27

S
free.

A
free. *mf*

T
mp *mf*

B
mp *mf*

Some-times I feel like I'm in - vis - i - ble But when I want to fit in, — eve - ry - one

mp *mf*

Some-times I feel like I'm in - vis - i - ble But when I want to fit in, — eve - ry - one

mp *mf*

30

S
f

A
f

T
f

B
f

no - tic - es me. — I can do an - y - thing when no one's a - round. And I'm

no - tic - es me. — I can do an - y - thing when no one's a - round. And I'm

no - tic - es me. — I can do an - y - thing when no one's a - round. And I'm

no - tic - es me. — I can do an - y - thing when no one's a - round. And I'm

33

S al - ways scared of fail - ing. Some-times I *mf*

A al - ways scared of fail - ing. Some-times I *mf*

T al - ways scared of fail - ing. Some-times I *mf*

B al - ways scared of fail - ing. Some-times I *mf*

mf

37

S wish the world Some-times I feel I feel I

A wish the world would - n't judge me. Some-times I feel I

T wish the world would - n't judge me. Some-times I feel I

B wish the world would - n't judge me. Some-times I feel I

mf

40

S can't be my - self. Some-times I fake a smile 😞 But I *f*

A can't be my - self. Some-times I fake a smile to hide my pain. 😞 But I *f*

T can't be my - self. Some-times I fake a smile to hide my pain. 😞 But I *f*

B can't be my - self. Some-times I fake a smile to hide my pain. 😞 But I *f*

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43

S al - ways know you'll be my friend. You'll be *mf*

A al - ways know you'll be my friend. You'll be *mf*

T al - ways know you'll be my friend.

B al - ways know you'll be my friend.

f *sub. mp*

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47

S my friend.

A my friend.

T Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

B Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

mf *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf*

f



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51

S

A Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self. Oo... Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self.

T Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

B Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf*

55 *mf*

S Ap - pre - ci - ate what you have And what you've

A *p mp p mp*
Oo... Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self. Oo... Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self.

T *p mp p mp*
Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

B *p mp p mp*
Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.



59 *mp* Timothy C Takach.com

S got - ten to do. Ap - pre - ci - ate where you are now And where I am

A *p mp p mp*
Oo... Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self. Oo... Ap-pre-ci - ate your - self.

T *p mp p mp*
Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.

B *p mp p mp*
Oo... Be kind. Oo... Be brave.



63

mf

S too. The life you live is a - maz - ing.

p *mf*

A Oo... Ap-pre - ci - ate The life you live is a - maz - ing.

p *mf*

T Oo... The life you live is a - maz - ing.

p *mf*

B Oo... The life you live is a - maz - ing.

mp

67

f Timothy C Takach.com

S There are so man - y peo - ple that love you,  in - clud - ing

f

A There are so man - y peo - ple that love you,  in - clud - ing

mp

T There are so man - y peo - ple that love you, 

mp

B There are so man - y peo - ple that love you, 

(8va)

70

S me. Be kind, be smart, be brave,

A me. Be kind, be smart, be brave,

T in - clud - ing me. Be kind, be smart, be brave,

B in - clud - ing me. Be kind, be smart, be brave,

f

74

S be cre - a - tive, Be kind, be smart, be brave,

A be cre - a - tive, Be kind, Be kind, be smart, be brave, be brave,

T be cre - a - tive, Be kind, be smart, be brave,

B be cre - a - tive, Be kind, be smart, be brave,

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78

S
be cre - a - tive, The world de - pends on peo - ple like ___ that. ___

A
be cre - a - tive, The world de - pends on peo - ple like ___ that. ___

T
be cre - a - tive, The world de - pends on peo - ple like ___ that. ___

B
be cre - a - tive, The world de - pends on peo - ple like ___ that. ___



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81

rit. *mp* Gently ♩ = 108
Some - times I for - get who's watch - ing. Some -

A
mp Some - times I for - get who's watch - ing. Some -

T
mp Some - times I for - get who's watch - ing. Some -

B
mp Some - times I for - get who's watch - ing. Some -

p



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♩ = 96

p

85

S times I re - mem - ber how good I am. — Some-times I get pushed

A times I re - mem - ber how good I am. — Some-times I get pushed

T times I re - mem - ber how good I am. — Some-times I get pushed

B times I re - mem - ber how good I am. — Some-times I get pushed

(S^{va})

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♩ = 108

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88

S down a - gain But you'll al - ways be there for me. That's

A down a - gain But you'll al - ways be there for me. That's

T down a - gain But you'll al - ways be there for me. That's

B down a - gain But you'll al - ways be there for me. That's

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

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92

S all I ev - er want - ed. 😊

A all I ev - er want - ed. 😊

T all I ev - er want - ed. 😊

B all I ev - er want - ed. 😊

p

p

p

p

p

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95

S

A

T

B

rit. Timothy C Takach.com

mp

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An excerpt from "Everything Sings," for SATB and piano or string quartet

Everything Sings / Timothy C. Takach

55

S *mf* crick-ets and clouds, rake and leaves wa-ter and a spoon *f* Eve-ry-thing sings, eve-ry-thing

A *mf* crick-ets and clouds, rake and leaves wa-ter and a spoon *f* Eve-ry-thing sings, eve-ry-thing sings;

T *mf* crick-ets and clouds, rake and leaves wa-ter and a spoon *f* Eve-ry-thing sings, eve-ry-thing sings;

B *mf* crick-ets and clouds, rake and leaves wa-ter and a spoon *f* Eve-ry-thing sings, eve-ry-thing

58

S *mf* sings; e - ven the moon and the drag-on - flies — hum their own tune.

A *mf* sings, eve-ry-thing sings; e - ven the moon and the drag-on - flies — hum their own tune.

T *mf* sings, eve-ry-thing sings; e - ven the drag-on - flies — hum their own tune.

B *mf* sings; e - ven the drag-on - flies — hum their own tune.

An excerpt from "Everything Sings," for SATB and piano or string quartet

Everything Sings / Timothy C. Takach

61

S *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
Mm... Mm...

A *mf*
Mm...

T *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
Mm... Mm...

B *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
Mm... Mm...

p *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

64 $\text{♩} = 76$

S *mp* *mf* *mf*
Mm... My

A *mf* *mf*
Mm... My

T *mp* *mf* *mf*
Mm... My

B *mp* *mf* *mf*
Mm... My

f *mp* *mf*

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Epitaph		SATB, viola
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTTBBB a cappella

Large Works

We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano