

Things I Didn't Know I Loved
GP - T009
TTBB choir, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

\$1.00

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Things I Didn't Know I Loved

for TTBB a cappella choir



Note:

“In Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet’s semi-autobiographical poem, a man just released from prison looks out the window of a train. As he travels, he realizes that he has forgotten so many wonderful things in the world while he was away. He mentions quite a few specific memories in a stream of consciousness style, and the unifying element that links them together is the consistent lens of the train window. I wrote unique music for each of the different musings, so each memory has its own voice. Although this work is through-composed, the repeating half-step motive that emerges throughout the music conjures up the movement of the train and links all of the separate contemplations together. Wherever each memory takes us, we are always called back to the view through the train window. In the end it is clear that the narrator has not fallen back in love with these singular things – he has fallen in love with life itself.”

- Timothy C. Takach (2008, from the liner notes for Cantus’ 2008 recording “While You Are Alive”)

Text:

it’s 1962 March 28th
I’m sitting by the window on the Prague-Berlin train
night is falling

I never knew I liked
night descending like a tired bird on a
smoky wet plain
I don’t like
comparing nightfall to a tired bird

And here I’ve loved rivers all this time
Whether motionless like this they curl
skirting the hills
European hills crowned with chateaus
Or whether stretched out flat as far
as the eye can see
I know this has troubled people before
And will trouble those after me
I know all this has been said a thousand
times before
And will be said after me

Flowers come to mind for some reason
Poppies cactuses jonquils
In the jonquil garden in Kadikoy Istanbul
I kissed Marika
Fresh almonds on her breath
I was seventeen
My heart on a swing touched the sky
I didn’t know I loved flowers
Friends sent me three red carnations in prison

I just remembered the stars
I love them too
Whether I’m floored watching them from below
Or whether I’m flying at their side

Snow flashes in front of my eyes
Both heavy wet steady snow and the dry whirling kind
I didn’t know I liked snow

I never knew I loved the sun
Even when setting cherry-red as now

In Istanbul too it sometimes sets in postcard colors
But you aren’t about to paint it that way
I didn’t know I loved the sea
Except the Sea of Azov
Or how much

I didn’t know I loved clouds
Whether I’m under or up above them
whether they look like giants or shaggy white beasts
moonlight
strikes me
I like it

I didn’t know I liked rain
Whether it falls like a fine net or splatters against the
glass
my heart leaves me tangled up in a net or
trapped inside a drop and takes off for
uncharted countries I didn’t know I loved
rain but why did I suddenly discover all
these passions sitting by the window on
the Prague-Berlin train
is it because I’m half-dead from thinking about
someone back in Moscow
her hair straw-blond eyelashes blue

The train plunges on through the pitch-black night
I never knew I liked the night pitch-black
sparks fly from the engine
I didn’t know I loved sparks
I didn’t know I loved so many things and I had to wait
until sixty to find it out sitting by the window on
the Prague-Berlin train watching the world
disappear as if on a journey of no return

- Nazim Hikmet, “Things I Didn’t Know I
Loved” appears in *Poems of Nazim Hikmet*,
translated by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk.
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Things I Didn't Know I Loved

TTBB Chorus a cappella

Nazim Hikmet

Timothy C. Takach (2001)

mf $\text{♩} = 80$

Tenor 1
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Tenor 2
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Baritone
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

Bass
it's nine-teen six - ty two March twen - ty eighth I'm sit - ting by the

6

T 1
win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing I

T 2
win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing

Bar.
win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing I

B
win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train night is fall - ing

f *p* *mf*

12 *mp*

T 1
8 nev - erknew I liked night de - scen - ding like a tir - ed bird on a smok - y wet plain—

T 2
8 night de - scen - ding like a tir - ed bird on a smok - y wet plain—

Bar.
nev - erknew I liked night like a bird on a plain—

B
8 night like a bird on a plain—

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16

T 1
8 I don't like com - par - ing night - fall to a tir - ed bird

T 2
8 I don't like com - par - ing night - fall to a tir - ed bird

Bar.
I don't like night - fall to a tir - ed bird

B
8 I don't like night - fall to a tir - ed bird

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19 *mf*

T 1
8 oo— oo—

T 2
8 oo— oo—

Bar.
f and here I've loved riv - ers all this time— wheth - er mo - tion - less like

B
mf oo— oo—

26

T 1 *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

T 2 *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

Bar. *f* this they curl skirt - ing the hills Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

B *f* Eu - ro - pe - an hills crowned with cha -

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32 *slower mp legato*

T 1 *slower mp legato* teas or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see

T 2 *slower mp legato* teas or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see

Bar. *slower mp legato* teas or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see I *solo mf*

B *slower mp legato* teas or wheth - er stretched out flat as far as the eye can see I *solo mf*

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36 *solo legato*

T 1 *solo legato* I

T 2 *solo legato* I

Bar. *legato* know this has trou - bled peo - ple be - fore and will trou - ble those af - ter me I

B *legato* know this has trou - bled peo - ple be - fore and will trou - ble those af - ter me I

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40

T 1
8 know all this has been said a thou-sand times be - fore and will be said

T 2
8 know all this has been said a thou-sand times be - fore and will be said

Bar.
know all this has been said a thou-sand times be - fore and will be said -

B
8 know all this has been said a thou-sand times be - fore and will be said

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45

tutti f

T 1
8 af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son____

tutti f

T 2
8 af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son____

tutti f

Bar.
af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son

tutti f

B
8 af - ter me flow - ers come to mind for some rea - son____

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48

p

T 1
8 pop - pies____ cac - tus - es____ jon - quils____

p

T 2
8 pop - pies____ cac - tus - ses____ jon - quils____ in the jon - quil gar - den in

p

Bar.
pop - pies____ cac - tus - ses jon - quils in

p

B
8 pop - pies____ cac - tus - ses____ jon - quils____ in

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50

T 1 *f* I kissed Ma - ri - ka fresh al-monds on her breath

T 2 *f* Kad - i - koy, Is - tan - bul I kissed Ma - ri - ka fresh al-monds on her breath

Bar. *f* Kad - i - koy, Is - tan - bul I kissed Ma - ri - ka on her breath

B Is - tan - bul

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53

T 1 *ritard* *mp* I was sev-en-teen my heart on a string touched the sky

T 2 *ritard* *solo mf* I was sev-en-teen my heart on a string touched the sky I did-n't know I loved flow-ers

Bar. *ritard* *mp* I was sev-en-teen I touched the sky

B *mf* *ritard* *mp* my heart touched the sky

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56 *solo mf* *a tempo tutti p*

T 1 friends sent me three red car - na - tions in pri - son I just re -

T 2 friends sent me three red car - na - tions in pri - son I just re -

Bar. *p* I re -

B *p* I re -

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61

T 1
8
mem-bered the stars I love them too wheth-er I'm floored watch-ing them from be -

T 2
8
mem-bered the stars I love them too wheth-er I'm floored watch-ing them from be -

Bar.
mem - ber I love them I watch them

B
mem - ber I love them I watch them

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64

T 1
8
low or wheth-er I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash - es in

T 2
8
low or wheth-er I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash - es in

Bar.
I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash - es in

B
I'm fly - ing at their side snow flash - es in

f

f

f

f

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68

T 1
8
front of my eyes and the dry whirl-ing kind I

T 2
8
front of my eyes and the dry whirl-ing kind I

Bar.
front of my eyes both heav-y wet stead-y snow and the dry whirl-ing kind I

B
front of my eyes I did-n't know I liked snow I

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71 *ritard*

T 1 nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

T 2 nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

Bar. nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

B nev - er knew I loved the sun ev - en when set - ting cher - ry red as

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$\text{♩} = 76$

75 *p* *legato*

T 1 now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

T 2 *p* *legato* now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

Bar. *p* *legato* now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

B *p* *legato* now in Is - tan - bul too it some - times sets in post - card col - ors but

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79 *mf* *mp*

T 1 you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

T 2 *mf* *mp* you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

Bar. *mf* *mp* you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

B *mf* *mp* you aren't a - bout to paint it that way I did - n't know I loved the sea ex - cept the

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83 *mf*

T 1 sea of Az - ov or how much I did-n't know I loved clouds wheth-er I'm

T 2 sea of Az - ov or how much I did-n't know I loved clouds wheth-er I'm

Bar. sea of Az - ov or how I loved clouds wheth-er I'm

B sea of Az - ov or how I loved clouds wheth-er I'm

mf

87 *mf*

T 1 un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

T 2 un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

Bar. un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

B un - der or up a - bove them wheth - er they look like gi - ants or

mf

90 *mp* *mf*

T 1 shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

T 2 shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

Bar. shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

B shag - gy white beasts the moon - light strikes me I like it I

mp *mf*

95

T 1

8

did - n't know I liked rain wheth-³er it falls like - a fine net or___

T 2

8

did - n't know I liked rain wheth-³er it falls like a fine net or___

Bar.

8

did - n't know I liked rain wheth-³er it falls___ like a fine net or

B

8

did - n't know I liked rain wheth-³er it falls___ like a fine net or

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99

T 1

8

splat-³ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan-gled up in a net or trapped in - *sp*

T 2

8

splat-³ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan-gled up in a net or trapped in - *sp*

Bar.

8

splat-³ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan-gled up in a net or trapped in - *sp*

B

8

splat-³ters a - gainst the glass my heart leaves me tan-gled up in a net or trapped in - *sp*

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102

T 1

8

side a drop and takes off for un - char - ted coun-tries I - did - n't know I loved

T 2

8

side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun-tries I did - n't know I loved

Bar.

8

side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun-tries I did - n't know I loved

B

8

side a drop and takes off for un - chart - ed coun-tries I did - n't know I loved

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

106

T 1

rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

T 2

rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

Bar.

rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

B

rain but why did I sud - den - ly dis - cov - er all these pas - sions

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

110 *f*

T 1

sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

T 2

sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

Bar.

sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

B

sit - ing by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train is

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113

T 1

it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one

T 2

it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one

Bar.

it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one

B

it be - cause I'm half dead from think - ing a - bout some - one

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115

T 1 *mp* *f*
back in Mos-cow— her hair straw-blond eye-lash-es blue the

T 2 *mp* *f*
back in Mos-cow— her hair straw-blond eye-lash-es blue the

Bar. *mp* *f*
back in Mos-cow— her hair blond and blue the

B *mp* *f*
back in Mos-cow— her hair blond and blue the

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118

T 1
train plung-es on through the pitch-black night I ne-ver knew I liked the night pitch-black

T 2
train plung-es on through the pitch-black night

Bar.
train plung-es on through the pitch-black night

B
train plung-es on through the pitch-black night I knew I liked—

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122

T 1 *ff*
sparks fly from the en-gine— I did-n't know I loved sparks I did-n't know I loved so

T 2 *ff*
sparks fly from the en-gine— I did-n't know I loved sparks I did-n't know I loved so

Bar. *ff*
sparks fly from the en-gine— I did-n't know I loved sparks I did-n't know I loved so

B *ff*
sparks fly from the en-gine— I did-n't know I loved sparks I did-n't know I loved so

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125

T 1 *f* man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

T 2 *f* man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

Bar. *f* man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

B *f* man - y things and I had to wait un - til six - ty to find it out

128 *mf*

T 1 *mf* sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

T 2 *mf* sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

Bar. *mf* sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

B *mf* sit - ting by the win - dow on the Prague - Ber - lin train watch - ing the world

132 *ritard*

T 1 *ritard* dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

T 2 *ritard* dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

Bar. *ritard* dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

B *ritard* dis - ap - pear as if on a jour - ney of no re - turn

Timothy C. Takach



Timothy C. Takach has received a number of commissions from various choral organizations including the St. Olaf Choir, Cantus, the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus, The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, The Young New Yorker's Chorus, the Appleton North High School Varsity Men's Chorus, and the Western Michigan University Chorale. His compositions have been heard on NPR and have been recorded by various groups in North America. Takach graduated with honors from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN in 2000 with a BA in Music Theory/Composition and a BA in Studio Art. While there he studied composition under Dr. Peter Hamlin and Dr. Timothy Mahr. He now lives in Minneapolis and sings with the professional male vocal ensemble, Cantus. As a singer with Cantus, Takach gives over 80 concerts a year and has had his works performed in concert halls across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

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Timothy C. Takach	GP - T002	A Sign of Day to Come	SATB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T003	Serenade	SSAA, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T004	Veni Creator Spiritus	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T006	The Streets of Laredo	unison voices, TTB, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T007	Home on the Range	2 part treble voices, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T009	Things I Didn't Know I Loved	TTBB, a cappella

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