

Quicksilver

for SATB choir and piano

composed by: Ryan Charles Ramer



photo: Christopher L. Richards

Quicksilver

One day you look around and say
This is not enough
We must weave the fabric of our lives

Some are not content to work with natural fibers
They work with quicksilver
They weave in light color and sound

The risk is that this kind of fabric may lack strength
The dyes may fade and leave us with fool's gold
In our clutch ing hands

This is the leap of faith you must take
To trust in dreams and weave your life amongst the stars
Or to etch a place for yourself at least

-William Josiah Irons
(September 12, 1812 – June 18, 1883)

Note to Singers:

- X noteheads = whispered
- italicized lyrics = create sound effect
- thick lines between noteheads = slide evenly between notes
- thick lines falling from a single note = slide down to an approximated pitch

Largo ♩ = 76

Ryan Charles Ramer

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Largo' with a quarter note equal to 76 beats per minute. The Soprano and Tenor parts begin with a '(whispered) SSSSS' sound effect. The Alto and Bass parts begin with a 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'one day you look a-round and say'. The Alto part includes a '(slide)' instruction over the word 'and'. The Piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The score is arranged in a system with five staves for the vocalists and two for the piano.

S
A
T
B

5

f

this is not e-nough (whispered) tick tick tick

8 *sssss*

f

this is not e-nough (whispered) nuff nuff nuff nuff nuff nuff nuff

S
A
T
B

7

mf

tick tick we must weave the fab-ric of our lives

8 *sssss*

mp

(slide) (headtone) ah

mf

nuff nuff nuff nuff nuff nuff we must weave the fab-ric of our lives

Molto Mosso ♩ = 90

S 10 *f* some are not con - tent to work with na - tu - ral fi - bers

A 10 (whispered) *sah* *mp* (slide) *ah*

T 10 *f* some are not con - tent to work with na - tu - ral fi - bers

B 10 tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick

Molto Mosso ♩ = 90

f

Molto Mosso ♩ = 90

S 14 they work with quick - sil - ver

A 14 (whispered) *sah* *mp* (slide) *ah*

T 14 they work with quick - sil - ver

B 14 tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick

Molto Mosso ♩ = 90

f

18

S (whispered) tick tick

A (approximate pitch) (slide) ah (whispered) sah

T (whispered) feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh

B tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick

21

S they weave in light co-lor and sound *ff*

A they weave in light co-lor and sound *ff*

T they weave in light co-lor and sound *ff*

B they weave in light co-lor and sound *ff*

8^{va}

S
A
T
B

25

sound

sound

sound

sound

(slide)

loco

6

S
A
T
B

30

the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength feh feh feh feh

30

the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

poco a poco cresc.

34

S
A
T
B

the dies may fade

feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh

the dies may fade

37

S
A
T
B

and leave us with and leave us with

(slide)

feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh

(slide)

tick tick tick tick tick

40

S fool's gold

A fool's gold

T 8 feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh

B 40 tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick

43

S *Agitato* (solo) in our clutch ing hands

A in our clutch ing hands

T 8 feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh feh

B 43 ha

molto mosso

45 (notes approximated to sound like a lazer fire sound-effect)

S (TUTTI) *pew pew pew pew*

A (approximate pitches) *ah ah ah ah ah ah*

T 8 *feh feh*

B (whispered) *tick tick tick tick*

48 *mf*

S *pew pew* one day you look a-round and say

A (approximate pitches) *ah ah ah* one day you look a-round and say

T 8 *feh feh feh feh feh feh* one day you look a-round and say

B *mf* *tick* one day you look a-round and say

(8va)----- loco *Tempo Primo*

ritardando *mf*

52

S *> > > > >*
this is not e-nough (quasi echo) this is not e-nough

A *> > > > >*
this is not e-nough (sotto voce) this is not e-nough

T *> > > > >*
this is not e-nough (quasi echo) this is not e-nough (sotto voce) this is not e-nough

B *> > > > >*
this is not e-nough (quasi echo) this is not e-nough

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) for measures 52 and 53. Each part features a melodic line with accents (>) and dynamic markings. The Soprano part includes a '(quasi echo)' instruction. The Alto part includes a '(sotto voce)' instruction. The Tenor part includes '(quasi echo)' and '(sotto voce)' instructions. The Bass part includes a '(quasi echo)' instruction. Below the vocal staves is the piano accompaniment for measures 52 and 53, showing the left and right hand parts.

54

S *p*
ah we must weave the fab - ric of our lives

A *p*
ah we must weave the fab - ric of our lives

T *p*
(headtone) ah we must weave the fab - ric of our lives

B *p*
(headtone) ah ah we must weave the fab - ric of our lives

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) for measures 54, 55, and 56. Each part begins with a vocalization 'ah' followed by the lyrics 'we must weave the fabric of our lives'. The Soprano part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The Alto part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The Tenor part has a dynamic marking of *p* and '(headtone)'. The Bass part has a dynamic marking of *p* and '(headtone)'. Below the vocal staves is the piano accompaniment for measures 54, 55, and 56, showing the left and right hand parts.

57 *Molto Mosso* *f*

S some are not con- tent to work with na-tu-ral fi- bers

A some are not con- tent to work with na-tu-ral fi- bers na-tu-ral fi- bers they work with

T some are not con- tent to work with na-tu-ral na-tu-ral fi- bers they work with

B some are not con- tent to na-tu-ral fi- bers

8

57 *Molto Mosso*

62 quick-sil- ver

A quick-sil- ver

T quick-sil- ver

B quick-sil- ver

8

62

S
A
T
B

68

they weave in light co- lor and sound

they weave in light co- lor and sound

they weave in light co- lor and sound

they weave in light co- lor and sound

68

f

6

6

6

8va

S
A
T
B

72

sound (approximate pitches)

sound (approximate pitches)

sound (approximate pitches)

sound (approximate pitches)

72

loco

6

6

77

S the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

A the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

T 8 the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack (whispered) kah kah kah

B 77 the risk is that this kind of fab - ric may lack strength

77 poco a poco cresc.

81

S tick tick tick pew pew

A the dies may fade

T kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah

B 81 the dies may fade

(notes approximated to sound like a lazer fire sound-effect)

85 (approximate pitch)

S *pew pew* *pew pew pewpew* *ah*

A and leave us with fool's gold

T *kah kah kah kah* *kah kah kah kah* *kah kah* *ah* *ah* (approximate pitches)

B and leave us with fool's gold

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 85 through 90. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: Soprano: "pew pew", "pew pew pewpew", "ah"; Alto: "and leave us with fool's gold"; Tenor: "kah kah kah kah", "kah kah kah kah", "kah kah", "ah", "ah"; Bass: "and leave us with fool's gold". The piano accompaniment consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Performance markings include "approximate pitch" for the Soprano and Tenor parts, and "approximate pitches" for the Tenor part. There are also trill markings and a fermata over the final notes of the vocal lines.

90

S *ah* *ah*

A *in our clutching hands* *ah* *ah*

T *ah* *ah*

B *ah* *ah*

Agitato

molto mosso

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 90 through 95. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: Soprano: "ah", "ah"; Alto: "in our clutching hands", "ah", "ah"; Tenor: "ah", "ah"; Bass: "ah", "ah". The piano accompaniment is marked "Agitato" and "molto mosso", featuring a fast, rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Performance markings include "Agitato" and "molto mosso" for the piano part, and trill markings for the vocal lines.

93

S *ah* *ah* *ah* this is the leap of faith you must take

A *ah* *ah* this is the leap of faith you must take

T *ah* *ah* (approximate pitches) this is the leap of faith you must take

B *ah* *ah* (approximate pitches) this is the leap of faith you must take

8^{va} - - - - - loco

ritardando

Un Poco Meno Mosso

96 (approximate pitch)

S *ah* to trust in dreams and weave your life a-mongst the stars

A (approximate pitch) *ah* to trust in dreams and weave your life a-mongst the stars

T (approximate pitch) *ah* to trust in dreams and weave your life a-mongst the stars

B (approximate pitch) *ah* to trust in dreams and weave your life a-mongst the stars

102 (notes approximated to sound like a lazer fire sound-effect)

S *pew pew pew pew pew pew pew pew ah*

A (approximate pitches) *ah*

T *kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah kah ah ah*

B (approximate pitches) *ah* (headtone)

Not Conducted. Each singer at his or her own tempo.
 Vocals imitate shooting stars, meteor showers, long-tailed comets, and futuristic sounds

105

S *poing poing poing poing poing poing pwah pwah*

A (approximate pitches) *bzzurt bzzurt bzzurt jing jing jing*

T (approximate pitches) *peerf peerf peerf shoo*

B (approximate pitches) *peeyow peeyow peeyow peeyow*

107

S *pwah poing poing pwah pwah* (niente)

A *leer swep swep swep swep swep swep* (niente)

T *shwing shwing shwing shwing shwing shwing boo boo boo* (niente)

B *weer weer weer weer weer weer weer weer weer* (niente)