

KEEPING TIME FOR JOY

Music by Marie-Claire Saindon and words by Sarah Windle. Premiered by The Chanterelles.

*Leave your labours, short and long
Your love, and loss, and longing strong
Into the blue, arise anew
As summer's swifts and swallows throng*

*Take wing, embrace infinity
Paths unwritten, flying free
Once subdued, become renewed
Awake your wintering self, and be!*

Keeping time for joy, oh joy! Keeping time for joy

*In willing winds, together dwell
On feathers fine, we swoop and swell
Wayward winging, softly singing
To the earth, for now, farewell*

Keeping time for joy, oh joy! Keeping time for joy

*With the lengthening of the light
We weave and swirl, through fading bright
In colours vast, descend at last
Our wistful hearts fulfilled by flight*

*Surrendered to our rightful rest
Wings weary, whisper at our breasts
Of joys to seek, and find, and keep
While a soaring song sings in our chests*

Keeping time for joy, oh joy! Keeping time for joy

Sarah Windle

Marie-Claire Saindon (b. 1984) is a Franco-Ontarian composer based in Montréal. She began creating in high school, where she wrote and produced her first musical, *Jeanne (Joan of Arc)*. She continued to participate in many collaborations, from choral pieces, to scoring short films and full documentaries, to accompanying dancers, to fiddling in a team of folk musicians on a historical steam train. She sang in the award-winning female vocal ensemble *Concerto Della Donna*, led by acclaimed choral director Iwan Edwards.

Marie-Claire Saindon holds a BMus: Composition from the Schulich School of Music (McGill) and an MMus: Composition - Film and Multimedia music from Université de Montréal.

Winner of the SOCAN Young Composers' National Awards in the vocal category (2013), the Gregg Smith National Choral Composition Contest (2015), the Canadian Choral Composition Competition hosted by Chor Leoni (2018), the Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition (2018), the inaugural Eastern Horizon Composition Competition (2018) and the Hong Kong Children's Choir 50th Anniversary Composition Competition (2018), her choral works are published with Boosey & Hawkes, Cypress Choral Music, Hal Leonard Choral, Earthsongs Choral Music, and Alliance Music, and is distributed by MusicSpoke.

Marie-Claire Saindon currently scores films (often with Melki Films), composes choral commissions, and is composer-in-residence for the Montreal upper-voice ensemble *Choeur Adleisia*.

