

PERUSAL SCORE

Bill Heigen

Soft Rains

bh

Soft Rains

*There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;*

*And frogs in the pools, singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white,*

*Robins will wear their feathery fire,
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;*

*And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.*

*Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly;*

*And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.*

Poem by Sara Teasdale

Duration: 3'45" minutes

Composer's Note

I composed **Soft Rains** in New York City in 2015.

This piece was commissioned by the Metropolitan State University of Denver Women's Chamber Choir. The original poem is entitled "*There Will Come Soft Rains*", and it was written by Sara Teasdale. The poem is part of her collection "*Flame and Shadow*", published in 1920. The poem imagines nature reclaiming a battlefield after the fighting is finished. It also alludes to the idea of human extinction by war.

Among many music elements used to underline the meaning of the words, right in the beginning of the piece the word "soft" is articulated in different moments by each voice part. That effect gives to the audience a sense of a soft rain coming and going.

This piece was premiered by MSU of Denver Women's Chamber Choir in October 2015 in Denver, Colorado. Jay Dougherty was the conductor.

- Bill Heigen

for the Metropolitan State University of Denver Women's Chamber Choir

SOFT RAINS

SSAA a cappella

SARA TEASDALE (1884 - 1933)

BILL HEIGEN (b. 1980)

♩ = 84

Soprano I
soft rains soft rains soft_

Soprano II
soft soft rains soft soft rains soft rains

Alto I
soft soft rains soft soft rains soft rains

Alto II
soft soft rains soft soft rains soft rains

A *a tempo*

molto rit.

S I.
rains soft rains There will come soft rains and the smell of the

S II.
soft rains soft rains

A I.
soft rains soft rains

A II.
soft rains soft rains

SOFT RAINS - BILL HEIGEN

14

S I. *f* *mf*
ground and swa - llows cir cling_ with their shi - mmer - ing sound soft

S II. *f* *mf*
ground and swa - llows cir cling_ with their shi - mmer - ing sound and frogs in the pools

A I. *mf*
ground cir - cling shi - mmer - ing sound soft

A II. *mf*
ground cir cling shi - mmer - ing sound

18

S I. *p* *mp* *p*
rains and wild plum trees in tre - mu - lous white

S II. *p*
sing - ing at night soft rains tre - mu - lous white

A I. *> p*
rains soft rains white

A II. *> p*
soft rains white

B

22

S I. *mp*
There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground

S II. *mp*
There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground

A I. *mp*
There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground

A II. *mp*
There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground Ro - bins

26

S I. *f* *mf* *p*
 Ro-bins will wear their fea - the - ry fire soft rains

S II. *f*
 Ro-bins will wear their fea - the - ry fire whist-ling their whims on a low fence-wire

A I. *mf* *p*
 will wear fea - the - ry fire soft rains

A II. *mf* *p*
 will wear fea - the - ry fire soft rains

C

30

S I. *p* *pp* *pp*
 soft rains soft rains

S II. *p* *pp* *pp*
 soft soft rains soft soft rains

A I. *p* *pp* *pp*
 soft soft rains soft soft rains

A II. *p* *pp* *pp*
 soft soft rains soft soft rains

D ♩ = 100

35 *f* *marcato* (m.35 to m.40)

S I. *f*
 and not one will know of the war not one will care at last when it's done not

S II. *f*
 and not one will know of the war of the war care at last when it's done not

A I. *f*
 and not one will know of the war of the war care at last when it's done not

A II. *f*
 and not one will know of the war not one will care at last when it's done not

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40 *ff* **molto rit.** *mp*

S I. one would mind nei-ther bird nor tree___ if man-kind pe-rished u - tter - ly

S II. one would mind nei-ther bird nor tree___ if man-kind pe-rished u - tter - ly and

A I. one would mind nei-ther bird nor tree___ if man-kind pe-rished u - tter - ly and

A II. one would mind nei-ther bird nor tree___ if man-kind pe-rished u - tter - ly

E ♩ = 76

45 *pp* *mp* *p*

S I. Spring___ would scar - cely know that we were gone

S II. Spring her - self when she woke at dawn know we were gone

A I. Spring her - self when she woke at dawn know that we were gone

A II. *mf* Spring woke dawn know that we were gone

F = 84 **poco accel.** *mf*

50 *pp* *mp*

S I. we were gone There will come soft rains and the smell of the

S II. *pp* we were gone we were gone There will come soft rains and the

A I. *pp* we were gone were gone were gone we were

A II. *pp* we were gone were gone were gone we were

55

S I. ground and swa - llows cir cling_ with their shi-mmer-ing sound soft

S II. smell of the ground swa - llows cir cling_ with their shi-mmer-ing sound and frogs in the pools

A I. gone we were gone shi-mmer - ing sound soft

A II. gone we were gone shi-mmer - ing sound

ff *f*

3

59

S I. rains soft rains Spring would

S II. sing-ing at night_ and Spring her - self when she woke at dawn

A I. rains and Spring her - self when she woke at dawn

A II. soft rains Spring woke dawn

mp *rit.* *mf* *mp*

$\text{♩} = 60$

63

S I. scar - cely know that we were gone we were gone

S II. know we were gone we were gone

A I. know that we were gone we were gone

A II. know that we were gone we were gone soft

p *pp*

$\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

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6

68 **H**

S I. *p* soft rains soft rains *p* soft rains *p* soft rains

S II. *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains

A I. *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains *p* soft soft rains

A II. *p* soft rains we were gone soft rains we were

72 *pp* *rall.* *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

S I. soft rains soft rains *pp* soft rains *ppp* soft rains *ppp* soft rains *ppp*

S II. *pp* soft soft rains *pp* soft soft rains *ppp* soft soft rains *ppp* soft soft rains *ppp*

A I. *pp* soft soft rains *pp* soft soft rains *ppp* soft soft rains *ppp* soft soft rains *ppp*

A II. gone soft rains we were gone soft rains

*There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;
And frogs in the pools, singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white,*

*Robins will wear their feathers fire,
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;
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