



# TOWARD A STAR

Mezzo-Soprano & SATB (div.) | Brass Quintet, Piano, & Percussion

Music | David Walters

Text | Henrietta Cordelia Ray

*Aspiration*

Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1848-1916)

We climb the slopes of life with throbbing heart,  
And eager pulse, like children toward a star.

Sweet siren music cometh from afar,

To lure us on meanwhile. Responsive start

The nightingales to richer song than Art

Can ever teach. No passing shadows mar

Awhile the dewy skies; no inner jar

Of conflict bids us with our quest to part.

We see adown the distance, rainbow-arched,

What melting aisles of liquid light and bloom!

We hasten, tremulous, with lips all parched,

And eyes wide-stretched, nor dream of coming gloom.

Enough that something held almost divine

Within us ever stirs. Can we repine?

# TOWARD A STAR

Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1848-1916)

David Walters (b. 1982)

Mezzo Soprano *♩ = 48* *resolute* *p*

Soprano (horn) *pp*

Alto *p* *Mm* *pp*

Tenor *Mm* *pp*

Bass *Mm* *pp*

We climb the slopes of life with throbbing heart, And eager pulse,

MS *mf* *p*

like children toward a star, like children toward a star.

S *mp* *ppp*

A *mp* *ppp*

T *Mm* *mp* *ppp*

B *Mm* *mp* *ppp*

Pno. *pp*

TOWARD A STAR

A

*pp*

*p*

S  
Sweet si - ren mu - sic, mu - sic,

A  
Sweet si - ren mu - sic, mu - sic,

T  
Sweet si - ren mu - sic, mu - sic,

B  
Sweet si - ren mu - sic, mu - sic,

Pno.

MS  
*p*  
co - meth from a - far,

S  
*pp* *p*  
to lure us

A  
*pp* *p*  
to lure us

T  
*pp* *p*  
to lure us

B  
*pp* *p*  
to lure us

Pno.

TOWARD A STAR

23 *ppp*

S *ppp* on mean - while.

A *ppp* on mean - while.

T *ppp* on mean - while.

B *ppp* on mean - while.

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* *8va*

28

S

A

T

B

Pno. *tender* *pp*

TOWARD A STAR

34 *mf*

MS Re- spon - sive

Pno. *p* *pp*

40 *mp* **B** *lovingly p*

MS start The night - in - gales to rich - er song than

Pno. *p*

45 *rall. mp* *a tempo*

MS Art can ev - er teach. No sha - dows, no sha - dows mar

Pno. *mp* *p*

TOWARD A STAR

49 *mf* **C** *poco accel.*

MS  
a - while the dew - y skies; no in - ner jar

S  
*p*

A  
*p*

Pno.

52 *f* *with great wonder*

MS  
of con - flict bids us with our quest to part.

S  
*mf cresc.*  
We see a -

A  
*mf cresc.*  
We see a -

T  
*p*  
We see a -

B  
*mf cresc.*  
We see a -

Pno.

## TOWARD A STAR

56

S  
down the dis - tance, rain - bow - arched, What melt - ing aisles of li - quid

A  
down the dis - tance, rain - bow - arched, What melt - ing aisles of li - quid

T  
8  
down the dis - tance, rain - bow - arched, What melt - ing aisles of li - quid

B  
down the dis - tance, rain - bow - arched, What melt - ing aisles of li - quid

Pno.

56

59 *f*  
S  
light and bloom!

A  
*f*  
light and bloom!

T  
8  
*f*  
light and bloom!

B  
*f*  
light and bloom!

Pno.

59



# TOWARD A STAR

**D** *passionately* (3+2)

62  $\text{♩} = 160$  *mf*

B We hast - en trem - u-lous, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched, nor

Pno. *mf*

66 (3+2+2) *mf*

T We hast - en trem - u-lous, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched, nor

B dream of com - ing gloom, with lips all parched,

Pno.

70 *mf*

A We hast - en trem - u-lous, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched, nor

T dream of com - ing gloom, with lips all parched,

B and eyes wide - stretched,

Pno.

## TOWARD A STAR

74 *mf*

S We hast - en trem - u - lous, with lips all parched, and eyes wide stretched, nor

A dream of com - ing gloom, with lips all parched,

T and eyes wide - stretched,

B eyes wide - stretched,

Pno.

74

S dream of com - ing gloom, com - - - - ing gloom, *f* *molto rall.*

A nor dream of com - ing gloom, *f*

T dream of com - ing gloom, of com - ing gloom, *f*

B nor dream of com - ing gloom, *f*

78

Pno.

TOWARD A STAR

**E** yearning

♩ = 45

S  
with eyes wide - stretched,

A  
with eyes wide - stretched,

T  
with eyes wide - stretched,

B  
with eyes wide - stretched, We hast-en,

Pno.

90 ♩ = 160 with a new fire

*mf*

S  
*mf* We hast-en, trem-u-lous, with

A  
*mf* We hast-en, trem-u-lous, with lips all parched, with lips all

T  
*mf* We hast-en, trem-u-lous, with lips all parched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide -

B  
*mf* trem-u-lous, with lips all parched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched, eyes wide -

Pno.

## TOWARD A STAR

97 *f* *poco accel.*

S lips all parched, and eyes wide-stretched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide-stretched, nor dream of com-ing gloom.

A parched, wide - stretched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched,

T stretched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide - stretched,

B - - stretched, with lips all parched, and eyes wide stretched,

97 *f*

Pno.

♩ = 48

102 *ff*

S dream of com - ing gloom.

A dream of com - ing gloom.

T dream of com-ing gloom.

B dream of com-ing gloom.

102 *ff* *mf*

Pno.

TOWARD A STAR

**F** warm *f*

*mp*

S  
E - nough that some - thing held al - most di - vine with-in us ev - er stirs. Can we re -

A  
E - nough that some - thing held al - most di - vine with-in us ev - er stirs. Can we re -

T  
E - nough that some - thing held al - most di - vine with-in us ev - er stirs. Can we re -

B  
E - nough that some - thing held al - most di - vine with-in us ev - er stirs. Can we re -

107

Pno.

**G** enrich'd of soul

*p* *ff*

MS  
We climb the slopes of life with throb-bing heart,

S  
pine? We climb the slopes of life with throb-bing heart, And ea-ger pulse, like chil-dren

A  
pine? We climb the slopes of life with throb-bing heart, And ea-ger pulse,

T  
pine? We climb the slopes of life with throb-bing heart, And ea-ger pulse,

B  
pine? We climb the slopes of life with throb-bing heart, And

114

Pno.

TOWARD A STAR

121

MS

S like chil - dren, *mf cresc.*

A toward a star, like chil-dren like chil-dren toward a star, toward a pulse, like chil-dren like chil-dren toward a star, toward a

T like chil-dren toward a star, toward a

B ea - ger pulse, like chil-dren toward a star, toward a

121

Pno.

*mf*

$\text{♩} = 45$

H the final climb

S *ff*

A star. *ff*

T star. *ff*

B star. *ff*

127

Pno.

*ff*

star.

131 *ff*

MS

S *ff*  
Ah Ah Ah Ah

A *ff*  
Ah Ah Ah Ah

T *ff*  
Ah Ah Ah Ah

B *ff*  
Ah Ah Ah Ah

Pno. 131

TOWARD A STAR

135 *fff* *accel.* ♩ = 35 *molto rall.*

S  
Ah Ah Ah

A  
Ah Ah Ah

T  
Ah Ah Ah

B  
Ah Ah Ah

Pno. *fff*

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 135-140) features vocal lines for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), and a Piano (Pno.) accompaniment. The vocal parts consist of long, sustained notes with lyrics 'Ah' repeated three times. The piano accompaniment includes triplets and complex chordal textures. The second system (measures 141-146) continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment, with the piano part featuring more complex textures and dynamics. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*fff*), tempo markings (*accel.*, *molto rall.*), and a tempo indication (♩ = 35). The piano part includes triplets and complex chordal textures.