Song of Miriam

ELAINE HAGENBERG

Elaine Hagenberg
MUSIC
Song of Miriam
by Rabbi Ruth Sohn

I, Miriam, stand at the sea
and turn
to face the desert
stretching endless and
still.
My eyes are dazzled
The sky brilliant blue
Sunburnt sands unyielding white.
My hands turn to dove wings.
My arms
reach
for the sky
and I want to sing
the song rising inside me.
My mouth open
I stop.
Where are the words?
Where the melody?
In a moment of panic
My eyes go blind.
Can I take a step
Without knowing a
Destination?
Will I falter
Will I fall
Will the ground sink away from under me?

The song still unformed—
How can I sing?
To take the first step—
To sing a new song—
Is to close one’s eyes
and dive
into unknown waters,
For a moment knowing nothing risking all—
But then to discover
The waters are friendly
The ground is firm
And the song—
the song rises again.
Out of my mouth
come words,drifting the wind.
And I hear
for the first
the song
that has been in my heart
silent
unknown
even to me.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Elaine Hagenberg’s music “soars with eloquence and ingenuity” (ACDA Choral Journal). Her compositions are performed worldwide and have been featured at All-State festivals, national and regional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall, the Melbourne International Choral Festival in Australia, and the International Children’s Choir Festivals in Canterbury and London. With over forty commissioned works, she has composed new music for the American Choral Directors Association Women’s Choir Consortium, colleges and universities, schools, community choirs, and churches.

In addition to composing, Elaine has been the guest artist and clinician for numerous conferences and festivals including the Heartland Youth Choir Meet the Composer Festival, the Alleluia Conference at Baylor University, the Voices Unite Festival, the Birmingham First Composer Festival, the Savannah Sacred Music Festival, and the In Canto Mediterrano International Choral Festival in Milazzo, Italy.

Elaine’s compositions are published by Beckenhorst Press, Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, G. Schirmer, Hinshaw Music, and Elaine Hagenberg Music. For more information, please visit elainehagenberg.com.
Song of Miriam

Treble Chorus, SSA and Piano

RABBI RUTH SOHN

Misterioso (\( \dot{=} \) ca. 100)

Soprano

\begin{align*}
\text{I stand at the sea} & \text{ and turn to face the} \\
\text{sea and} & \text{ turn to face the} \\
\text{My} & \text{ My} \\
\end{align*}

Alto

Piano

\begin{align*}
\text{Misterioso (\( \dot{=} \) ca. 100)} \\
\text{I stand at the sea} & \text{ and turn to face the} \\
\text{sea and} & \text{ turn to face the} \\
\text{My} & \text{ My} \\
\end{align*}

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eyes are dazzled the sky brilliant blue.

Sun burnt sands unyielding white. My hands turn to dove wings. My hands turn to dove wings. I want to

arms reach for the sky, reach for the sky, I want to

arms reach for the sky, the sky, I want to
To sing the song rising,

I want to sing the song rising,

poco a poco rit.

Where are the words? I stop. Where the melody? In a

*audibly inhale
moment of panic my eyes go blind, can I take a step without knowing a destination?

racing frantically

moment of panic my eyes go blind, can I take a step without knowing a destination?

Allegro energico (\( \text{\textit{\textbf{q.}} = 104} \))

in a nation?

In a

moment of panic, a moment of panic I take a step without knowing a destination?

\( \text{\textit{\textbf{p}}} \) racing frantically

moment of panic my eyes go blind, can I take a step without knowing a destination?
Moderato sostenuto (\( \dot{=}100 \))

Will I fall? Will the nation? Will I falter?

Moderato sostenuto (\( \dot{=}100 \))

Will I fall? Will the nation?

Ground sink away, will I falter? Will I fall?

The ground sink away from under me. Will the ground sink away from under me?

Song still unformed, how can I sing? The

Oh
Song still unformed, how can I sing?

To take the first step, to sing a new song, to close one's eyes and dive into unknown waters.

Andante con moto (\( \dot{q} = 92 \))

For a legato.
moment knowing nothing risking all.

For a moment knowing nothing risking all.

moment knowing nothing risking all.

For a moment knowing nothing risking all.

Poco rit.

With renewed hope \( (\text{q.} = 88) \)

then to discover the waters are friendly. The waters are friendly.

With renewed hope \( (\text{q.} = 88) \)

then to discover the waters are friendly. The waters are friendly.
57  ground is firm, the song rises again.

59  Out of my mouth come words lifting the wind.

61  I hear for the first time,