

*Commissioned by the Flower Mound High School Jaguar Chorale
Dr. Mark Rohwer, Conductor*

when god decided to invent

For Keith Koehlmoos and Dagan Hanson

E.E. Cummings

Joshua Shank

With rubato $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

Soprano
Saxophone
(concert pitch)

Finger
Cymbals

when god de-cid-ed to in-vent ev - 'ry-thing he took one
when god de-cid-ed to in-vent ev - 'ry-thing he took one
when god ev - 'ry-thing one
when god ev - 'ry-thing one

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breath big- ger than a cir - cus - tent and ev - 'ry - thing be - gan

breath big- ger than a cir - cus - tent and ev - 'ry - thing be - gan

breath and ev - - 'ry - thing be -

breath and ev - - 'ry - thing be -

[15] Undulating (same tempo)

- - - - *mf*

gan one breath, one *mf* breath, one

gan one breath, one *mf* breath, one

simile

breath, one breath, one breath, one *mf* one

breath, one breath, one breath, one one

20

simile

breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one

For Perusal Only

14

mf placidly

one breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath, one

[28]

breath, one
breath, one breath, one **f**
breath, one breath, one breath, one
f
breath, one breath, one breath, one
breath, one breath, one breath,

For Perusal Only

breath, one breath, one breath, one **ff** hawh,
breath, one breath, one breath, one hawh,
breath, one breath, one breath,
breath, one breath, one breath, hawh,
one breath, one breath, one hawh,

32

ff

hawh,

hawh,

hawh,

hawh,

For Perusal Only

36

stringendo

rit.

oh,

stringendo

rit.

oh,

stringendo

rit.

oh,

stringendo

rit.

oh,

40

In 2 $\text{d} = \text{c. } 60$

H 3

B 3

when man,

43

mf

H

T 8

B

when man, when man,

For Perusal Only

49

mp

H

B

mp

S

when man

mp

A

when man

mp

T

man

mp

B

when man

53

stroy him - self he picked the was of shall
 stroy him - self he picked the was of shall
 stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de -
 de - stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de -

For Perusal Only

57

and find - ing on - ly why smashed it in - to be -
 and find - ing on - ly why smashed it in - to be -
 stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____
 de - stroy, _____ de - stroy, _____ de -

For Perusal Only

A musical score for a piano/vocal piece. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of four sharps, and a tempo marking of 120 BPM. The second staff shows a bass clef. The vocal line consists of the word "la" repeated many times across five staves. The piano accompaniment features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and sustained notes in the left hand.

For Perusal Only

70

Soprano: eighth-note patterns.

Alto: sustained notes, 'la' lyrics.

Tenor: sustained notes.

Bass: eighth-note patterns.

For Perusal Only

Musical score for "La La Land" featuring multiple staves:

- Top Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major (three sharps). Notes include a whole note, a rest, eighth-note pairs, a sixteenth-note pattern, and a whole note.
- Second Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a rest, a dotted half note, a whole note, and a rest.
- Third Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a whole note, a rest, a whole note, and a rest.
- Fourth Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a whole note, a rest, a whole note, and a rest.
- Fifth Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a whole note, a rest, a whole note, and a rest.
- Sixth Staff:** Treble clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a whole note, a rest, a whole note, and a rest.
- Bottom Staff:** Bass clef, key signature of A major. Notes include a whole note, a rest, a whole note, and a rest.

The lyrics "la la la" are repeated throughout the vocal parts.

78

Musical score for orchestra and choir, page 16, measures 11-12. The score consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the orchestra, featuring violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The bottom two staves are for the choir. The vocal parts begin with sustained notes followed by rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "la la la" are repeated twice. The music concludes with a final sustained note.

For Perusal Only

Musical score for "La La Land" featuring five staves of music with lyrics "la la la la" repeated.

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A musical score for piano and voice. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is for the right hand of the piano, starting with a quarter note followed by a fermata. The second staff is for the left hand of the piano, featuring a bass clef and a continuous eighth-note pattern. The third staff is for the voice, starting with a half note followed by a fermata, with lyrics "la la la la la la la la" written below it. The fourth staff is for the right hand of the piano, showing a continuous eighth-note pattern. The bottom staff is for the bassoon, also showing a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure numbers 86 and 87 are indicated above the staves.

Musical score for 'La La Land' featuring five staves. The top staff shows a melodic line with grace notes and slurs. The second staff features sustained notes with 'la' lyrics. The third staff has sustained notes with 'la' lyrics. The fourth staff consists of eighth-note patterns with 'la' lyrics. The bottom staff shows sustained notes with 'la' lyrics.

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Soprano vocal line:

- Staff 1: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.
- Staff 2: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.
- Staff 3: Eighth-note pattern with 'la' lyrics.
- Staff 4: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.

Piano accompaniment:

- Bass clef staff: Eighth-note chords.

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Soprano vocal line:

- Staff 1: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.
- Staff 2: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.
- Staff 3: Eighth-note pattern with 'la' lyrics.
- Staff 4: Sustained note with 'oo' vowel sound.

Piano accompaniment:

- Bass clef staff: Eighth-note chords.

Measure 98

Stomp:
Stomp:
Stomp:
Stomp:
Stomp:

Burnsville, December 2005

About the composer

Born in 1980, Joshua Shank is quickly becoming recognized as a talented and innovative young composer whose music has been widely performed by high school and professional ensembles alike. He received his undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

In 2002, Joshua became the youngest composer ever awarded the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association. The winning piece, *Musica animam tangens* (written at the age of 20), was premiered at the 2003 ACDA National Convention.

Visit www.sbmp.com to listen to a recording of this piece and to see and hear additional titles by Joshua Shank.

The Text

By E.E. Cummings (1894-1962)
From *I x I [One Times One]*

when god decided to invent
everything he took one
breath bigger than a circumstent
and everything began

when man determined to destroy
himself he picked the was
of shall and finding only why
smashed it into because

Note from the composer

I thought a lot about what the creation of the world could actually be like. Would it be something so vast and epic that it might be perceived with some degree of violence? Or would it be meticulously planned and lovingly, playfully executed? I chose the latter and, because of that, my "creation" music is more intimate than larger-than-life. The last chord (and what comes after it) is meant to sound "transformative." For some reason, the ending is always the last thing I write and by the time I got there the arc of the piece was "creation/destruction/re-creation." This final chord is the creator taking control of the creation again.

Performance notes

The closer the harmonies, the less vibrato should be used. Staggered breathing should be employed throughout with no apparent break in the musical line unless specified.

Range

S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2

Soprano saxophone part: SBMP 693.1