Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

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TEXTS

1. Invocation after Chagall: A Wheatfield on a Summer's Afternoon

Come, O Sun! Awake and take the sky!

I call you to come out, come out! Break to me your dawning. Burn me with your music! Enflame me with your song!

Remember, O Eden The brightness of the first day! Invoke with me again Fair Adam and golden Queen: Awake, O Sun! And take the sky!

3. The Manger Haikus after Chagall: *The Holy Family*

Lowing softly here, You cattle watching o'er Him: Why are you favored?

Simple ass and ram, With roughest coat and feature: Who gave you this prize?

And you circling doves, Cooing lullabies to Him: Who asked you to sing?

Glory be to God! As it was to these creatures, So it is to us.

2. The Poets' Choice after Chagall: *The Poet*

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On any given day – What would you say? -Would Dorothy Parker and Millay Prefer for lunch A Daiquiri?

Or would you guess, If you were pressed, That they'd confess A fondness, say, For Tanqueray?

it matters not to me, my friend,

Not a little nor a lottle, The form that holy genius takes, Nor the color of the bottle.

4. Love Song after Chagall: *The Lovers in the Lilacs*

In this bower we will make our nest.

We will step lightly among the blossoms, disturbing nothing;

Our talk will be of lilacs and the warm April sun;

Our touch will be the caresses of ripe fruit;

And our song will lift like prayers on the scented air.

5. Night: Scherzo after Chagall: *La baou de saint Jeannet*

The settling hours chase the final fleeting beams, And draw the flickering shards of day Into their black and airless beds.

The swiftest sparks fly up And cluster along the raven dome To taunt the night and crackle there As Cancer, goat, and Scorpio.

Into our dreams they fly, Falling in silver showers, To settle in tomorrow's fields As Prophesy and Desire.

6. In Dreams after Chagall: *Over the Town*

Carry me up in dreams; Carry me to the place where borders melt And forests flow to the sea.

Carry me up; Take me where oceans rock in gentle hands And the blue earth floats as if dreaming.

Carry me to the place where dreams fly, And let me rest where silence breathes Like songs of the Divine.

7. Inspiration after

Chagall: Cow with Parasol

What did Mr. Shakespeare read on Sunday afternoon? Did he seek the latest sonnets in the Stratford Picayune?

And what did Mozart whistle as he shopped with Mrs. M? Was it his own tune, I wonder, or Salieri's latest gem?

It makes me ponder Socrates, before his tragic end: Did he quote Homer to his best Platonic friend?

And maybe witty Oscar Wilde, when at a loss for words, Delivered bon mots as his own that he had overheard?

Was there art before Chagall? Or design before Chanel? And whose Bolero did the trick before Maurice Ravel?

The thinkers who think first thoughts first leave second thoughts behind; They're busy thinking things unthought by lesser humankind.

To be a genius is a chore, as every scholar tells us, It must be hard to think your thoughts and never someone else's!

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William Averitt (b. 1948)

For biographical information visit: www.williamaveritt.com

William Averitt

Catalog No. 8656 Commissioned by the Texas Lutheran University Choirs, Douglas Boyer, director In honor of Landa King, with gratitude for her inspirational leadership as a visual arts educator and colleague at Texas Lutheran University.

Where Dreams Fly

for SATB Chorus and Piano Four-hands

1. Invocation after Chagall: A Wheatfield on a Summer's Afternoon

Robert Bode



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4. Love Song after Chagall: The Lovers in the Lilacs

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5. Night: Scherzo after Chagall: *La baou de saint Jeannet*

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7. Inspiration after Chagall: Cow with Parasol

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