

Asleep in a Campfire

SATB & Piano

Music by:

Mitchell Fund

Text:

Michael Espinosa

Duration: 3:30

Information Sheet

Performance Notes

Wildfire season hits hard in the Pacific Northwest. It's not just a little smoke in the sky; it is a suffocating presence that you can't escape from. Local poet Michael Espinosa captures this feeling so perfectly. You can't breathe and you don't know when you'll be able to again. I attempted to capture the building, questioning anxiety of those fiery, hellish days, for SATB and piano.

About the Text:



I'm a writer and educator who has taught middle school English in western Washington for over 10 years. Writing poetry and short fiction has been a passion of mine since high school. Outside of work, my time is spent reading, writing, and enjoying the outdoors of the Pacific Northwest. In "Asleep in a Campfire," I wanted to capture the anxiety of living on the west coast during wildfire season. Some of my writing influences are John Darnielle, John Green, Phil Elverum, Nikki Giovanni, and Raymond Carver. You can read more of my writing at mespinosawrites.com.

About the Composer: Mitchell Fund



I've been a music teacher, composer, and performer in the Puget Sound region of the Pacific Northwest for over 18 years. In 2021 I decided to follow my Walden dreams and built a small, off grid cabin in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. I spend my days amongst nature composing, reading, writing, and teaching remote music lessons. My main composition inspirations are Arvo Pärt, Henryk Górecki, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Ralph Vaughn Williams, and nature itself.

I have dozens of pieces on my website, mitchellfundmusic.com, all free to download. (Though donations are always appreciated!) My Choral Shorts series are pieces, canons, exercises, and warmups designed to be easy to print out on one piece of paper and composed from a teacher's viewpoint to help work on specific choral techniques.

Asleep in a Campfire

Text - Michael Espinosa

Music - Mitchell Fund

Grave ♩ = 50

5 *mp*

S A

T B

Piano

mp

The sun is orange,

6

the sky a tex-ture-less grey. Haze. It's ha - zy.

Haze. It's ha - zy.

11

'Haze' is a kin-der word than smoke.

'Haze' is a kin-der word than smoke. What does a deep breath feel like?

This system contains measures 11 through 14. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measures 11 and 12 contain the lyrics "'Haze' is a kin-der word than smoke." Measures 13 and 14 contain the lyrics "'Haze' is a kin-der word than smoke. What does a deep breath feel like?". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody of eighth and quarter notes in the right hand.

17

mf

The sun turns red,

mf

When was the last time you had one?

mf

This system contains measures 15 through 18. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has three flats. Measures 15 and 16 contain the lyrics "The sun turns red,". Measures 17 and 18 contain the lyrics "When was the last time you had one?". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody of eighth and quarter notes in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present above the vocal staff in measures 17 and 18.

18

the sky a u - ni-form pink.

the sky a u - ni-form pink.

18 19 20

21

Tree line looks rubbed with a cheap e-ras - er. Ash floats soft as

Tree line looks rubbed with a cheap e-ras - er. Ash floats soft as

21 22 23

24 25

snow. Will it bu - ry you? Will you
snow. What does a deep breath feel like?

25

27 29 *f*

e - ver see light a - gain? All is
When was the last time you had one?

29 *f*

mf cresc.

Toss when you final-ly fall a -

30

grey - scale. *mp* Lay a-wake, Lay a - wake.

f All is grey - scale. *mp cresc.* Lay a-wake,

35

33

- sleep. _____ You may not wake up. **8**

f cresc. You may not _____ wake up.

You may not wake up. Will it bu - ry

35

36 *mf* Will smoke con - sume

What does a deep breath feel like? _____ When

mf you? Will you e - ver see light a -

38 you? Will em - bers swal - low

was the last time you had one? _____

-gain? Will it bu - ry

40 you whole?

What does a deep breath feel like? _____ When

you? Will you e - ver see light a -

42 *dim.* The last time? _____

was the last time you had one? _____

dim. _____

- gain? _____

mp