

Commissioned in honor of Teresa Benjamin
 for the Robbinsdale All-District Elementary Choir, Patti Arntz, conductor
 SAB arrangement commissioned by the the 2019 TAISM Festival of Choirs (Muscat, Oman)
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I Started Out Singing

SAB choir & piano

Naomi Shihab Nye

Jocelyn Hagen

Exuberant ♩ = 116

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major). It begins with a treble clef staff containing a series of chords and eighth-note patterns, marked with an accent (>) and a forte (f) dynamic. The bass clef staff contains a simple accompaniment of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a fermata over the final chord. A 'with pedal' instruction is written below the first few measures.

molto rit. (♩ = 66) *Freely* ♩ = ca. 80

This section shows the vocal entries for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The Soprano and Alto parts enter with the lyrics 'I start-ed out _sing-ing' on a half note. The Bass part enters with the same lyrics on a half note. The piano accompaniment features a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and mezzo-piano (mp). A '6' is written above the first measure of the piano part.

I started out singing
 oh yes oh yes
 in a voice as clear
 as a penny and a dime

in time in time
 I came to be
 as tall as a riddle
 as full as a shadow
 as far as the wind
 that blows itself
 alone to sea

I stared out smiling
 oh yes oh yes
 with my face tipped up
 to the moon's soft stare
 a halo of giggles
 tied in my hair
 with a sleep as deep
 as desert sand

my dreams were the stories
 that crossed the land

2

11

oh — yes oh — yes — I start - ed out — sing - ing oh — yes I start - ed out — sing - ing

11

19

slight rit.... Tempo I

16

oh yes — in a voice as clear as a pen - ny and a dime —

16

21

mf

25 *mp*

in time in time I came to be as tall as a riddle as full as a shadow as

in time in time I came to be as tall as a riddle as full as a shadow as

in time in time I came to be as tall as a riddle as full as a shadow as

25 *p*

30

far as the wind that blows it - self a - lone to the sea

far as the wind that blows it - self a - lone to the sea

far as the wind that blows it - self a - lone to the sea

30

35

f I start-ed out — smil-ing — I
f oh — yes oh — yes
f I start-ed out — smil-ing — I

35

mf *f* *mf*

41

start-ed out — smil-ing — I start-ed out — smil-ing oh yes — with my
 — oh — yes I start-ed out — smil-ing oh yes — with my
 start-ed out — smil-ing — I start-ed out — smil-ing oh yes — with my

41

legato

45

p

face tipped up to the moon's soft stare

p

face tipped up to the moon's soft stare

p

face tipped up to the moon's soft stare

45

lightly

pp

una corda

50

p

S
A

a ha-lo of gig-gles tied in my hair

50

sim.

54

B

with a sleep as deep as de - sert sand

54

57 rit.

Slower

Tempo I

58 *mp* **61**

S
A
B

my dreams were the sto-ries that crossed the land

58 *p* *tre corda* *p*

62 *mp* *mf*

66 *f* **67**

S
A
B

I start-ed out — sing-ing oh — yes I start-ed out — sing-ing

I start-ed out — sing-ing oh — yes oh — yes I start-ed out

I start-ed out — sing-ing oh — yes I

66 *f* **6**

70

oh — yes I start-ed out — sing-ing oh yes — oh yes —
sing - ing oh — yes — I start-ed out — sing-ing oh yes — oh yes oh yes
start-ed out — sing-ing oh — yes oh — yes oh yes —

70

mp *mf* *mp* *p*

75

in a voice as clear — as clear
in a voice as clear — as clear
in a voice as clear as a pen - ny and a

mf *mf* *mf* *slight rit.* 79

