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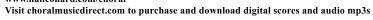
for the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy High School Choir Emily Halbert, director

Malala's Dream

For 2-Part Treble with Piano Duration: ca. 3:15

Words by MALALA YOUSAFZAI from I Am Malala Music by ETHAN McGRATH



















COMPOSER'S NOTES ON "MALALA'S DREAM"

In the barrage of negative news headlines, our tendency is sometimes to throw up our hands and think, "There's nothing I can do." But then somebody like Malala Yousafzai will come along and overcome such overwhelming challenges to remind us that there is still good in the world—and that apathy is never the right answer. This setting of a passage from Malala's memoir, *I Am Malala*, is a small part of the answer to my own internal question, "What can I do to make a difference?" My hope is that this musical setting will present a new avenue through which Malala's story and her message of peace and equality can reach people.

I wrote this piece as a gift for the students at **Chattanooga Girls' Leadership Academy**, a charter school for girls in grades 6-12. My hope for them—and for every choir that sings it—is that it will inspire them as they face a world that is unfortunately still fraught with sexism and many other forms of inequality. Music has the miraculous power of making words stick in our memory like nothing else can, and these words are very much worth carrying in the heart.

Though this piece was written for a girls' choir, it can be performed by any type of SA choir: boys' choirs, mixed children's choirs, and even adult women's choirs. I intentionally wrote it to be approachable and easy to sing, with creative and engaging melodic lines in both parts. The main thing to keep in mind when performing it is that simplicity is what gives it its charm; it should have the effect of effortlessly flowing along, without any sense of being rushed or of being sung in a heavy or mannered way. Just sing from the heart; invite the audience into the peaceful world that the song symbolizes.

TEXT

Peace in every home, every street, every village, every country—this is my dream. Education for every boy and every girl in the world. To sit down on a chair and read my books with all my friends at school is my right. To see each and every human being with a smile of happiness is my wish.

Text for "Malala's Dream," as it appears in Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala* (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2013), page 313

A composer of diverse influences, **Ethan McGrath** seeks to write music that will break down barriers between people and have the potential to convey meaning to anyone who hears it. Recent commissions have come from the American Choral Directors Association, the Voce Chamber Choir (London), and the New Consort (NYC). His compositions have been featured in workshops by Rodney Eichenberger and performed by such ensembles as the Choir of Trinity College (Cambridge), the Capitol Hearings (Washington, D.C.), and the Taipei Chamber Singers. He has received awards from the Musica Sacra Institute (Poland), Alfred Music, and the Southeastern Composers League, and his works have been published by Hal Leonard, Oxford University Press, Schott Music, and others. Ethan studied composition with J. Bruce Ashton and Jonathan McNair at Southern Adventist University and UT Chattanooga, respectively, and earned an MMus in conducting at the University of Cambridge, where he studied under Stephen Layton and Timothy Brown, among others. For more information, visit **www.ethanmcgrath.com**.