



# The Things of This World

*SATB choir + piano*

words by

**Katharyn Howd Machan**

music by

**Nicholas Ryan Kelly**

Love is a ship with its sails full-blown,  
a cat confessing the moon,  
a single footprint filling with rain  
on the edge of an ocean dune.

Truth is a perfect silver bell,  
a cow dusk-heavy with milk,  
the hand of a woman reaching for thread  
of cranberry-colored silk.

Beauty—ah! It's a goatskin drum,  
a swan with only one wing,  
a man who is just beginning to try  
to use his mouth to sing.

## **Performance/rehearsal note**

To give the music a sense of momentum and bring out the natural flow of the words, the first beat in every 3/4 measure should be slightly emphasized. The same goes for beats 1 and 3 of each 4/4 measure: the section at **B** should sound like cut time (i.e. only two emphasized beats per bar) even if conducted in 4.

For the Penticton TuneAgers in honour of their 50th season, and  
Musaic Vocal Ensemble in honour of their 25th season.

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**Fast and flowing** ♩ = 116 *p* unis.

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Piano

Love is a  
Love, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *f* *p sub.*

*ped.* \_\_\_\_\_ *sim. (Ped. harmonically)*

6

S.  
A.

T.  
B.

ship with sails full - blown, a cat con - fess - ing the  
sails full blown, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* *mp* *p*

Pno

*mf*

A

11 *p*

S. A. moon, a sin - - gle foot - print fill - ing with

T. B. the moon, love fill - ing with

Pno

16 *f* *mp sub.* *p*

S. A. rain on the edge of an o - cean dune.

T. B. rain with rain, with rain.

Pno *f* *mp sub.* *p*

22 poco rit. (optional)

S. A.

T. B.

Pno

**B** A Tempo  
Cut time feel,  $\text{♩} = 58$

27 *mp*

S. *p*

A. *p*

T. B. *p*

Pno

*resonant, floating*  
*8va*

*p sub.* (gently!) *loco*

*Red.*

Truth is a per - fect sil - ver bell, a cow dusk - hea - vy with  
 Truth is a per - fect sil - ver bell, truth is a per - fect sil - ver  
 Truth is a per - fect sil - ver bell, truth is a per - fect sil - ver

32

S. milk, the hand of a wo - man reach - ing for thread

A. bell, truth is a per - fect sil - ver bell, for

T. B. bell, truth is a per - fect sil - ver bell, for

Pno

(Ped.) (Ped. harmonically)

*mf*

36

S. thread, of cran - berry col - oured silk.

A. thread, of cran - berry col - oured silk.

T. B. thread,

Pno

*mp* *p* *pp* *ff* *p sub.* *8va*

43

S. A.

T. B.

*mp*

Beau - ty... ah! It's a goat - skin

Pno

48 **C** *mf*

S. A.

T. B.

*f* *mf*

Beau - ty... ah! It's a goat - skin drum, a swan with on - ly one drum, ah!

drum, It's a goat - skin drum, a swan with

Pno

poco rit.....

54 *mp*

S. A. wing, a man who is just be - gin - ning to

T. B. on - ly one wing, man just be - gin - ning to

Pno *mp*

59 *ff* **D** Poco meno mosso *f* *mp*

S. try to use his mouth to

A. try, to try, try to

T. B. try, to try, try to

Pno *ff* *mp* *p*

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64 *(mp)* *poco rit.* *p*

S. sing, to use his mouth *pp* (*quasi echo*) to

A. sing, to use his mouth to

(opt. bass div.) *pp* (*quasi echo*)

T. B. sing, to use his mouth to

Pno *mp* *p*

69 *A Tempo* *pp* *rit.* *unis.* *p*

S. sing, to sing.

A. sing, to sing.

(Opt. bass div. Only sing lowest part if both *p* notes are in range.)

T. B. sing, to sing.

Pno *mp* *p*