

Erin Guinup Choral Works

Music has the power to heal and connect us in our most vulnerable moments. As a composer, I create choral works that reflect my love of people and a desire to walk alongside others through life's challenges. My compositions emerge from a deep belief that music should be both accessible and transformative, and I'm drawn to stories and texts that invite us to see ourselves in others, to acknowledge pain while nurturing hope, and to discover the joy that comes from being truly present with one another. My hope is to craft pieces that honor the full spectrum of human emotion while celebrating our capacity for empathy and connection.

As an emerging composer, I'm deeply grateful to every choir that brings these pieces to life and welcome opportunities to collaborate on new commissions. Thank you for taking the time to look at these songs that mean so much to me. If you'd like to purchase or perform any of these pieces, please contact me at eringuinup@gmail.com.

Thank you!!!

Alone Together (SAB & piano)

A poignant pandemic-era piece that transforms experiences of isolation into hope through community connection. Written with text inspired by students' own words, the music moves from solitude and grief to the uplifting realization that "together we make it through." This accessible yet emotionally powerful work offers choirs and audiences a healing shared experience that acknowledges our struggles while celebrating our capacity to support one another. Commissioned by the Valley Region Choral Project consisting of Federal Way, Puyallup, Sumner, and Bonney Lake School Districts.

[Sheet Music](#)

[Video](#)

Our Pain (SATB, piano, violin)

This deeply moving piece, initially inspired by the death of George Floyd, centers on finding empathy for others feeling pain and making a commitment to do what we can to make a difference. The music moves from shared grief to a resolve to listen, learn, and work toward dismantling barriers while maintaining hope through the storm. This emotionally powerful work challenges choirs to engage with difficult but essential conversations about justice and our responsibility to support one another. (Not yet performed- Opportunity for your choir to do the premiere!)

[Sheet Music](#)

[Audio](#)

Rest (SATB & piano)

This haunting piece explores the complex emotional landscape of depression and anxiety through evocative poetry by mental health counselor Josh Weed. The musical setting incorporates chromaticism and extended vocal techniques to mirror the text's journey from darkness to the possibility of healing. Choirs will find this sophisticated work offers both performers and audiences a meaningful artistic exploration of mental health struggles while honoring those who face these challenges. Commissioned by Tacoma Arts Commission for Tacoma Community College.

[Sheet Music](#)

[Audio](#)

Good King Wenceslas (SATB & piano)

This thoughtful arrangement invites us to consider the story of Good King Wenceslas and his example of service and seeking out those who may need our help. With a rolling piano accompaniment that is interspersed with sections in minor and a syncopated pattern, this SATB arrangement refreshes this Christmas classic while honoring its timeless message of compassion and generosity. Premiered by Northwest Repertory Singers

[Sheet Music](#)

[Audio](#)

Joy to the World (SATB & piano)

This unique arrangement of the holiday classic makes me smile with its flowing accompaniment, subtle melodic variations that feel fresh, and an invitation to feel joy. This accessible yet distinctive setting breathes new life into the beloved carol while maintaining its celebratory spirit and universal message of peace and happiness. (Not yet performed- Opportunity for your choir to do the premiere!)

[Sheet Music](#)

[Audio](#)

On This Day of Joy and Gladness (SAB, descant, piano & organ)

This anthem invites us to sing alleluia as we count the blessings in our life and recommit to serving God. The arrangement is accessible and builds with the addition of organ and a high soprano descant, with the congregation invited to join on the final chorus.

[Sheet Music](#)

[Audio](#)

Additional works expected to become available soon:

Pretty Lights (SATB & piano)

A [unique text](#) that juxtaposes holiday lights with the hypnotic glow of cell phones and asks whether we will choose to be present to the wonder around us. (Not yet performed- Opportunity for your choir to do the premiere!)

Help Me Find a Home (SA, SAB, SATB & piano)

An [emotional text](#) written by refugee Aboubakr Hassan about longing for home and finding hope in community. This piece captures the universal human need for belonging and safety while offering a message of healing through connection and song. Performed by the Tacoma Refugee Choir at the National ACDA Conference in 2023.

Moon Song (SA, SATB, piano & percussion, opt. guitar)

A haunting melody written to a [text](#) by poet Abby E. Murray about her experiences working with detained youth. The text speaks of how we are connected by the moon, no matter where we are. Performed by the Tacoma Refugee Choir at the National ACDA Conference in 2023. [Video](#)

Man, Dust (TTB)

This poignant piece, featuring a [powerful text](#) by Josh Weed, celebrates the wonder of becoming a father and witnessing the birth of his daughter.

Everyone Can Love Someone (SA, SAB, SATB & piano)

This high energy piece written with Congolese musicians Trésor Rubaduka and Nathalie Bajinya celebrates the joy of community and invites all to contribute and love one another. Performed by the Tacoma Refugee Choir at the National ACDA Conference in 2023.

I'm Just Like You (2-part choir & piano)

This emotional piece reminds us that we have more in common than is different. A bridge invites audience response with the words "You belong. Be Loved. Believe." Music and lyrics by Trésor John Rubaduka and Erin Guinup. [Premiered](#) by Tacoma Refugee Choir

The Scent of Memories (2-part choir, flute, and piano, opt. guitar)

This piece was inspired by conversations with two Vietnamese elders after visiting their community garden full of vegetables that remind them of the homes they lost. The [text](#) includes a brief section of Vietnamese that roughly translates as "though we left our homeland, our homeland never leaves us." Premiered by Tacoma Refugee Choir