

Ellen Ruth Harrison

The Stories We Tell

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for SATB Chorus

2020

Commissioned by the Cincinnati Choral Society

Phil Clary, Artistic Director

and

Lisa Peters, Assistant Conductor

Text by Laurie Elizabeth Lambert

from *What We Are Made Of*

published by Finishing Line Press, 2019

My heartfelt thanks go to Phil Clary for suggesting this project, to Diane Debevec and Lisa Rocklin of Women Writing for (a) Change for introducing me to Laurie Lambert's sensitive and engaging poetry, and to Laurie Lambert for allowing me to set "The Stories We Tell." The rhythm and color of her writing is truly inspiring.

Duration: circa 4 minutes

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The stories we tell

We are shaped by the words
we wrap around our soul
fastened and formed
by invisible threads.

We create a quilt of stories
with the fabrics
of our mind's recollections
our heart's narratives.

There are spaces too for the tales
our mothers tell about us,
adventures our children recall,
moments captured by the anam cara,
and the lovers' versions of history.

We are patched, repaired, remade
again and again as we claim
the stories we hear about our lives
intermingled with those memories
we share with the world.

All sewn against the backing
of the truths we voice
only to ourselves.

Laurie Elizabeth Lambert

The Stories We Tell

Laurie Elizabeth Lambert

Ellen Ruth Harrison

♩ = 92

SOPRANO
p We are shaped, *mp* we are shaped, *mf* we are shaped by the words...

ALTO
p We are shaped, *mp* we are shaped, *mf* we are shaped by the

TENOR

BASS

Piano (for rehearsal only)
p *mp* *mf*

6

— we wrap a-round our souls *p* fas-tened *mp* and formed

words a - round our souls *p* fas-tened *mp* and formed

We are shaped, *p* we are *mp*

p *mp*

12

by in - vis - i - ble threads. We cre - ate a quilt of sto - ries__

by in - vis - i - ble threads. We cre - ate a quilt of sto - ries__

fas - tened by in - vis - i - ble threads. We cre - ate sto - ries__

We cre - ate sto - ries__

20

__ with the fab - rics of our mind's rec - ol - lec - tions. We cre - ate a quilt of

__ with fab - rics of our mind's rec - ol - lec - tions. We cre - ate a quilt of

__ with fab - rics of our minds. We cre - ate

__ with fab - rics of our minds. We cre - ate

27

sto-ries with the fa-brics of our heart's nar-ra-tives. The sto-ries we tell, *mf*

sto-ries with the fab-rics of our heart's nar-ra-tives. The sto-ries we tell, *mf*

sto-ries with fab-rics of our hearts.

sto-ries with fab-rics of our hearts.

sto-ries with fab-rics of our hearts. *mf*

34

the sto-ries we tell. *mf*

the sto-ries, *mp* the sto-ries we tell. *mf*

the sto-ries we tell. *mp*

the sto-ries we tell. *mp*

the sto-ries we tell. *mp* *mf*

54

mo-ments cap-tured by the an - am ca - ra, and the lov - ers' ver-sions of

mo-ments cap - tured by the an - am ca - ra, and the lov - ers' ver - sions of

mo ments cap - tured by an - am ca - ra, and lov - ers' ver - sions of

mo-ments cap - tured by an - am ca - ra, and lov - ers' ver - sions of

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

60

his-to - ry. The sto-ries we tell, the

his-to - ry. The sto-ries we tell, the sto - ries, the

his - to - ry. the sto - ries we tell,

his - to - ry. the sto - ries we tell,

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

sto-ries we tell. We are patched, re - paired, re - made a -
 sto-ries we tell. We are patched, re - paired, re - made a -
 the sto-ries. We are patched, re - paired, re - made a -
 the sto-ries. We are patched, a -
 gain and a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain and a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain, a - gain and a - gain, sto - ries we

gain and a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain and a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain a - gain as we claim the sto - ries, sto - ries we
 gain, a - gain and a - gain, sto - ries we

79

hear a-bout our lives in-ter-min-gled with those mem-o-ries

hear a-bout our lives in-ter-min-gled with those mem-o-ries, those

hear a - bout our lives in-ter-min-gled with those

hear a - bout our lives in-ter-min-gled with those

mp

mp

mp

mp

85

we share with the world. We cre-ate a quilt of sto-ries,

mem - o-ries we share with the world. We cre-ate a quilt of sto-ries,

mem - o-ries we share with the world. We cre - ate sto - ries,

mem - o-ries we share with the world. We cre - ate sto - ries,

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

92

mp *f*

— All sewn a - gainst the back-ing of the truths we voice

mp *f*

— All sewn a - gainst the back-ing of the truths we voice

mp *f*

— All sewn a - gainst the back-ing of the truths we voice

mp *f*

— All sewn a - gainst the back-ing of the truths we voice

mp *f*

mp *f*

100

mp *mf*

— on - ly, on - ly to our - selves. The

mp *mf*

— on - ly, on - ly to our - selves. The

mp *mf*

— on - ly, on - ly our - selves.

mp *mf*

— on - ly, on - ly our - selves.

mp *mf*

107

sto-ries we tell, the sto - ries we tell.

sto-ries we tell, the sto - ries we tell, the sto - ries we tell.

the sto - ries we tell.

the sto - ries we tell.

mp mf

mp mp

mf

113

We cre - ate the sto - ries we tell.

We cre - ate the sto - ries we tell.

We cre - ate the sto - ries we tell.

We cre - ate the sto - ries we tell.

mf f

mf f

mf f