



**University of
Sunderland**

Jenkins, Hayley (2019) Letters for choir. [Composition]

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Full Score

H.A.Jenkins

Letters

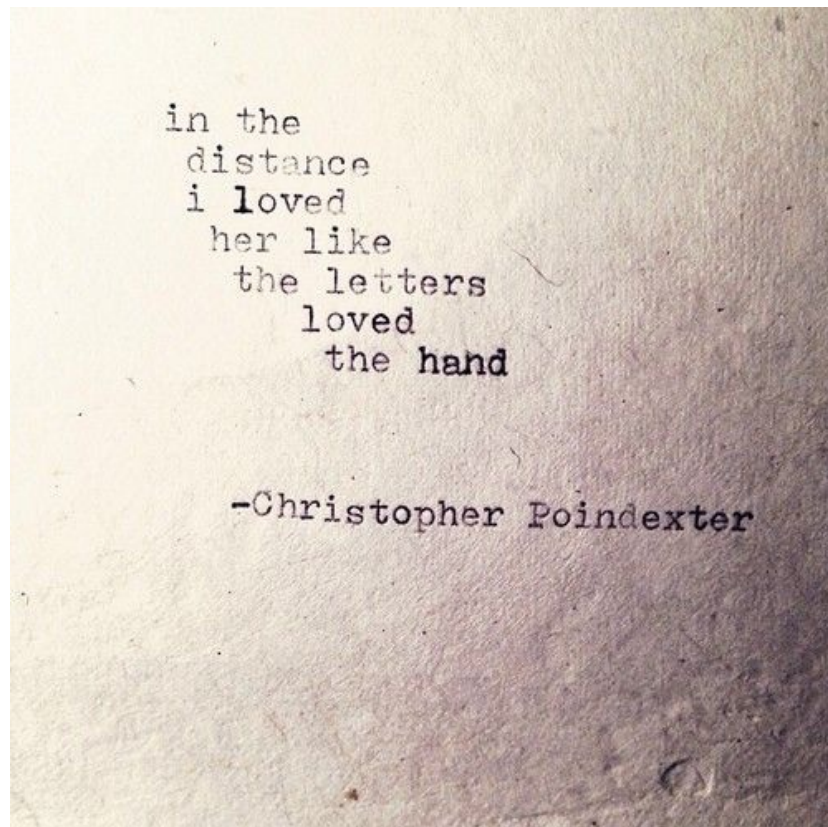
*For Chris Bartram and his
choir, Soon Amore*

For SATB Choir and four soloists.

This piece was inspired by a poem by American poet Christopher Poindexter. The succinctness of his words, their composition and the silence that I felt between them really sounded like music to me. I wanted to re-create this poem with all the possible iterations in tone, texture, structure and hopefully meaning in all possible utterances that is possible with full choir. The four solos help to personify the possible meanings this poem might offer to it's many readers, as we all project our own personal experience upon art, poetry and song, in our own ways.

The notated whispered and spoken parts are just suggestions of utterances, it is up to the soloists themselves to speak the words in their own natural rhythms of speech so that they feel natural and from the heart.

Hayley Jenkins



Letters

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$
Tranquillo e sospirando

Soprano Solo *p*
Whispered freely In the dis-tance

Alto Solo *p*
In the dis tance__
Whispered freely In the dis tance

7

S. Solo G.P *p*
In the dis tance

A. Solo G.P *mf*
In the dis tance__

T. Solo G.P *p* 3
In the dis tance__
Whispered freely

B. Solo G.P *p*
dis - tance
Whispered freely

S. G.P

A. G.P

T. G.P

B. G.P

14

S. Solo *mf*

A. Solo In the dis tance

T. In the dis tance— *p*

B. *p* Hummed

22

S. Solo *mf*

A. Solo Spoken In the dis-tance like the let ters

T. Solo *mf* 3 In the dis tance—

B. Solo *mf* Spoken Like the let - ters let ters

S. Hummed *pp* In the dis-tance

A. *p* Hummed

T.

B.

A. Solo

T. Solo *mf* *3*
Spoken In the dis tance__ like the let - ters

S. like the let - ters In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters *pp*

A. dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters

T. Ooo

B. Ooo



S. Solo *p*
Ahh

A. Solo *p*
Ahh Ahh

T. Solo *f*
In the dis - tance I loved her like the

S. In the dis - tance

A. In the dis - tance

T. *mf* dis - - tance__
The dis - tance__

B. *mf*
The dis - tance__

44

S. Solo *mp*
Ahh

A. Solo *mp*

T. Solo *mf*
8 le ——— ters In the dis - tance I loved her like the

B. Solo *mf*
I loved her I loved her

S. *mp*
The let - ters

A. *mp*
The let - ters

T. *mp*
8 The ——— dis - - tance ———
The ——— dis - tance ———

B. *mp*
The ——— dis - tance ———

52

S. Solo *f* I loved her *f* I loved

A. Solo *f* I loved her *f* I loved

T. Solo *f* le_____ ters I loved her loved her I loved

B. Solo *f* I loved her I loved her I loved I loved

S. *mf* I loved her The_____ dis - tance_____

A. *mf* I loved her The_____ dis - tance_____

T. *mf* The_____ dis - tance_____

B. *mf* The_____ dis - tance_____

60

S. Solo
her like the le_ ters. Like the_ let_

A. Solo
her like the le_ ters mm_

T. Solo
her loved her like the le_ ters mm_

B. Solo
her I loved her

S.
dis - tance

A.
dis - tance

T.
dis - tance

B.
dis - tance

mp *rit.* *ppp*

67 *p* - - - - - **Andante** ♩ = 80 - - - - -

S. Solo
ters

A. Solo

T. Solo

S. *mp dolce*
The hand____ The hand

A. *pp* *mp dolce*
The____ dis - tance____
dis - - tance____ The hand____ The hand_

T. *pp* *mp dolce*
dis - - tance____
The____ dis - tance____ The hand____ The hand_

B. *pp* *mp dolce*
The____ dis - tance____ The hand____ The hand_

S. Solo

A. Solo

T. Solo

S.

A.

T.

B.

—loved the let ters_____ loved the let - ters_____ *p* The hand_

—loved the let ters_____ loved the let - ters like I loved her_____ *p* The hand_

—loved the let ters_____ loved the let - ters like I loved her_____ *p* The hand_

loved the let ters_____ loved the let - tters_____ *p* The hand_

S. Solo

A. Solo

T. Solo

Read poem aloud and freely over drone **f**

S.

A.

T.

B.

In the dis-tance I loved her like the let-ters

The hand_ Hmm_ *pp*

The hand_ Hmm_ *pp*

The hand_ Hmm_ *pp*

The hand_ Hmm_ *pp*

90

mf Read poem aloud and freely over drone

S. Solo

Musical staff for Soprano Solo in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes. The lyrics "In the dis-tance" are written below the staff. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes.

A. Solo

Musical staff for Alto Solo in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes. The lyrics "The dis-tance I" are written below the staff. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes.

T. Solo

Musical staff for Tenor Solo in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes. The lyrics "loved the hand" are written below the staff. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes.

B. Solo

Musical staff for Bass Solo in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes.

pp Read poem aloud and freely over drone

S.

Musical staff for Soprano in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes. The lyrics "The hand" and "Hmm" are written below the staff. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes.

A.

Musical staff for Alto in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes. The lyrics "The hand" and "Hmm" are written below the staff. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes.

T.

Musical staff for Tenor in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes.

B.

Musical staff for Bass in G major. It features a drone accompaniment of quarter notes.

96

S. Solo

the let-ters the let-ters loved the hand

A. Solo

the let-ters loved the hand

T. Solo

the let-ters loved the hand

B. Solo

I loved her__ like the let-ters loved the hand

S.

A.

T.

B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 96, contains eight staves. The first four staves are vocal solos: Soprano (S. Solo), Alto (A. Solo), Tenor (T. Solo), and Bass (B. Solo). Each solo part includes lyrics: 'the let-ters' and 'loved the hand'. The Bass Solo part also includes the lyrics 'I loved her__ like'. The last four staves are vocal parts for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.), which appear to be a sustained harmonic accompaniment consisting of dotted half notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The Bass Solo part features a triplet of eighth notes at the beginning.

101

S. Solo

A. Solo

T. Solo

B. Solo

S.

p The hand____ *pp* The hand____ *ppp* The hand____

A.

p The hand____ The hand____ The hand____

T.

p The hand____ The hand____ The hand____

B.

p The hand____ The hand____ The hand____

Tempo Primo con patetico ♩ = 112

108

S. Solo

A. Solo

T. Solo

S.

pp
In the dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance dis - tance like the

A.

pp
dis - tance dis - tance like the

T.

B.

116

S. Solo

Musical staff for Soprano Solo (S. Solo) showing a series of rests.

A. Solo

Musical staff for Alto Solo (A. Solo) showing a series of rests, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note A4. Dynamics: *mf*. Lyrics: I loved

T. Solo

Musical staff for Tenor Solo (T. Solo) with lyrics: The hand The hand loved the let- ters. Dynamics: *mf*. Includes a fermata over the first 'The hand'.

B. Solo

Musical staff for Bass Solo (B. Solo) with lyrics: In the dis - tance like the let -. Dynamics: *pp* to *p*.

S.

Musical staff for Soprano (S.) with lyrics: let - ters In the dis - tance In the dis - tance like the let - ters. Dynamics: *p*.

A.

Musical staff for Alto (A.) with lyrics: let - ters In the dis - tance In the dis - tance like the let - ters. Dynamics: *p*.

T.

Musical staff for Tenor (T.) with lyrics: In the dis - tance like the let - ters. Dynamics: *p*.

B.

Musical staff for Bass (B.) with lyrics: In the dis - tance like the let -. Dynamics: *pp* to *p*.

123

mf

S. Solo

The hand_____ The hand loved the let- ters_____

A. Solo

her I loved her I loved her

T. Solo

8

B. Solo

mf

ters In the dis - tance like the

S.

mf

In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

A.

mf

In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

T.

8

In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

B.

mf

ters In the dis - tance like the

130 *f Pesante*

S. Solo *f* I loved her I loved

A. Solo *f* I loved her I loved

T. Solo *f* I loved her I loved her I loved

B. Solo *f* I loved her I loved I loved

S. *mf Pesante* The _____ dis - - - tance _____

A. *mf* The _____ dis - - - tance _____

T. *mf* The _____ dis - - - tance _____

B. *mf* The _____ dis - - - tance _____

135

S. Solo

her I loved her

A. Solo

her I loved her

T. Solo

her I loved her

B. Solo

her I loved her

S.

I loved her

A.

I loved her

T.

I loved her

B.

I loved her

Letters

Soprano Solo

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$

Tranquillo e sosprianzo

Whispered freely In the dis-tance

In the

dis tance

In the dis tance

In the

Spoken

dis-tance like the let ters

Ahh

Ahh

I loved herit.

I loved her

like the

le ters. Like the let ters

In the dis-tance

loved the hand

Tempo Primo con patetico

The hand

The hand

loved the let- ters

I loved her

I loved her

I loved her

Letters

Alto Solo

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$

Tranquillo e sosprianzo

G.P 4

In the dis tance__

In the dis tance__

In the dis tance__

In the dis tance__

Spoken like the let - ters

let ters

Ahh__

Ahh__

I loved her

I loved her

like the

le__

ters mm__

The dis-tance I

loved the hand

Tempo Primo con patetico $\text{♩} = 112$
the let-ters

I loved her

I loved her

I loved her

loved

her

2

Alto Solo

134 *f*

2 *ff*

I loved her I loved her

Letters

Tenor Solo

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$

Tranquillo e sospirando

7 G.P. *p* 3 11 *mf* 3

In the dis tance

In the dis tance

23 4 *Whispered freely* *mf* 3 7

Spoken

In the dis tance like the let - ters

39 *f* *mf*

In the dis - tance I loved her like the le - ters In

48 *f*

the dis - tance I loved her like the le - ters

I loved her

57 *f*

loved her I loved her like the le -

65 *mp* *rit.* *ppp* 4 3 8 3 *Andante* $\text{♩} = 80$ *Read poem aloud and free*

ters mm

86 *f* 3

In the dis-tance

I loved her like the let-ters

loved the hand

91 7 7

Tempo Primo con patetico $\text{♩} = 112$ the let-ters

loved the hand

108 8 *mf*

The hand

The hand

119 8

loved the let - ters

Tenor Solo

130 *f* *Pesante*

Musical notation for measures 130-134. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *f* *Pesante*. The lyrics are: I loved her, loved her, I loved.

135

Musical notation for measures 135-136. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *ff*. A fermata is placed over measure 135. The lyrics are: her, I loved her.

Letters

Bass Solo

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$

Tranquillo e sospirando G.P

7 2 *p* 11 *mf*

dis - tance
Whispered freely

Spoken Like the let - ters

25

20 *mf*

let ters

I loved her

I loved

51

f

her

I loved her

I loved her

I loved

59

f rit. 5

I loved her

I loved her

71

Andante $\text{♩} = 80$ 3 18 3

Read poem aloud and freely over

I loved her... like

97

7

the let - ters

loved the hand

Tempo Primo con patetico $\text{♩} = 112$

108

8 *pp* *p*

In the dis - tance like the let - ters In

125

mf *f Pesante*

the

dis - tance

like

the

I loved her

I

133

f 2 *ff*

loved

I

loved her

I

loved

her

Letters

SOPRANO

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

♩ = 112

Tranquillo e sospirando

G.P. 17

7 *pp*

In the dis - tance like the let - ters

30 8

In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

45 *mp* 5 *mf*

The let - ters I loved her The

57 *mp* rit.

dis - tance dis - tance

66 *Andante* ♩ = 80 *mp dolce* 5

The hand The hand loved the let - ters

78 *p* *pp*

loved the let - ters The hand The hand Hmm

87 *pp*

The hand Hmm

98 *p* *pp*

Tempo Primo con patetico The hand The hand The hand

107 *ppp* *pp*

In the dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance dis - tance

115 *p*

like the let - ters In the dis - tance In the dis - tance like the let - ters In the

V.S.

SOPRANO

124 *mf* *mf Pesante*



dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance The_____

132 *ff*



— dis - tance_____ I loved her

Letters

ALTO

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

♩ = 112
Tranquillo e sosprianzo **G.P. 15** *Hummed* *p*

7 15 *p*

29 *pp*

37 8 *mp* 5

55 *mf* *rit.* *mp* *pp*

64 *mp* *pp*

72 **Andante** ♩ = 80 *mp dolce*

80 *p* *pp*

89 *pp*

99 *p*

Tempo Primo con patetico ♩ = 112

108 4

ALTO

112 *pp* *p*

dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance In the dis - tance

121 *mf*

like the let - ters In the dis - tance dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

130 *mf* *esante* *ff*

The dis - tance I loved her

Letters

TENOR

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$
Tranquillo e sospirando

7 G.P. 10 *p*
Hummed

24 5
Ooo

38 *mf* dis - tance *mp*
The dis - tance *mf* The

49 dis - tance The dis -
tance dis - tance dis -

59 *pp* dis - *mp dolce* tance *rit.* dis -
tance **Andante** $\text{♩} = 80$ The

69 dis - tance The hand The hand loved the let - ters

78 *p*
loved the let - ters like I loved her The hand The hand

86 *pp*
Hmm

97 *p*
The hand

104
The hand The hand

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V.S.

2 **Tempo Primo con patetico** ♩ = 112

TENOR

108 **10** *p*

In the dis - tance like the let - ters *mf* In the dis - tance

125

dis - tance like the let - ters In the dis - tance

132 *ff*

dis - tance I loved her

Letters

BASS

C.Poindexter

H.A.Jenkins

$\text{♩} = 112$

Tranquillo e sospirando

G.P. 6

7 **7** **6** *p*

Hummed

21

Ooo__

32

The__ dis -

43

tance__ The__ dis - tance__

53

The__ dis - tance__ dis -

62

The__ dis - tance__

72

Andante $\text{♩} = 80$
mp dolce

The hand__ The hand__ loved the let- ters__ loved the let - tters__

80

The hand__ The hand__ Hmm__

89

100

The hand__ The hand__ The hand__

2 **Tempo Primo con patetico** ♩ = 112

BASS

108

8

pp

p

In the dis - tance like the let - ters In

125

mf

mf Pesante

the dis - tance like the The dis -

133

ff

tance I loved her