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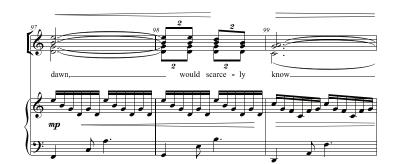












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Many choral composers today have rediscovered the beauty and passion within Sara Teasdale's poetry. I have been intrigued with the diversity of three individual poems, "Anadyomene," "If I Were the Velvet Rose" and "There Will Come Soft Rains." I believe that they give us greater insight into the human experience and a chance for us to know ourselves better.

When I wrote "There Will Come Soft Rains," I wanted to explore Sara's depiction of the absence of humanity, specifically through what she describes as "the war." This may have been a reference to her own time period, although I find it more haunting to imagine that she could be describing the things of today. Although these pieces can be performed individually, I would like to encourage directors to think of them as a single set and explore the possibilities and challenges they present.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) was an American lyrical poet, who in 1918 won the Columbia University Poetry Society Prize (which became the Pulitzer Prize for poetry). She received public admiration for her well-crafted lyrical poetry which centered on a woman's changing perspectives on beauty, love and death. Critics found her poetry to be unsophisticated but full of musical language and evocative emotion. Today her words are set to music by some of the finest composers of our time.



Oboe