

THE LIGHT I CANNOT SEE, Foy
SBMP 1752

TTBB
piano



THE
Light
I CANNOT SEE

words and music by
Brian A. Foy



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com



About the composer

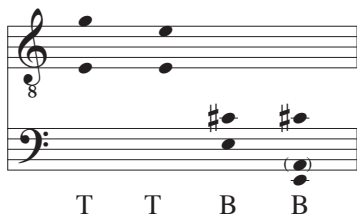
Brian Foy (he/him b. 1987) holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. As a student, he sang with the Harding University Chorus and Chamber Singers, and composed and arranged pieces for the Chamber Singers and Belle Canto treble choir. He is a former member of the Manassas Chorale in Manassas, Virginia and served on the board of directors from 2011-2016, and led the Bass section of Six Degree Singers in Bethesda, Maryland from 2017-2019. He currently is the Owner of bFoyMusic LLC in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and sings with the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and Chamber Singers.

Composer notes

When our director asked me to write a piece about neurodiversity, my husband suggested I use conversations with his cousin, John, as a starting point. John is on the autism spectrum, and loves nothing more than sharing stories about his life and his friends down to the smallest detail. Whenever he has something to share, John begins with "I have an idea," or "Can I tell you a story?", which provides the basic structure for the song, a conversation between a small group of singers representing those who are neurodivergent and the remainder of the chorus representing those who are not. When the small group sings, their passages contain tight harmonies and dissonance which illustrates some intrinsic obstacle to sharing their "idea," while the choir tries to see the world the way the neurodivergent do, searching for "a story I cannot know," "the music I cannot hear," and "the light I cannot see." As the piece goes on, we learn that the "light" also represents the inherent, often unseen value of those who are neurodivergent, and that we'll work through this disconnect in communication if we stand together, regardless of cognitive identities.

If desired, a small group may be used to represent the neurodivergent voice and sing the italic phrases separately from the larger choir.

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

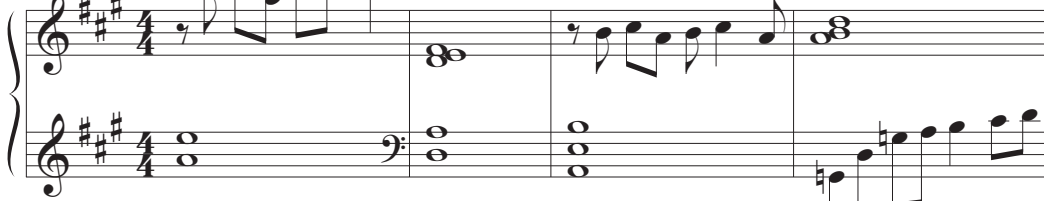
Commissioned by the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Dr. Gerald Gurss - Artistic Director

The Light I Cannot See

Words and Music by
Brian A. Foy

Freely

Piano



Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

5

T

B

mp

3

I have an i - de - a. ___

I have an i - de - a. ___



Musical notation for the first vocal entry (measures 5-7). It includes staves for Tenor (T) and Bass (B) voices, and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "I have an i - de - a. ___". The piano part features a triplet in the right hand.

8

8

3

I have an i - de - a. ___

I have an i - de - a. ___



Musical notation for the second vocal entry (measures 8-10). It includes staves for Tenor (T) and Bass (B) voices, and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "I have an i - de - a. ___". The piano part features a triplet in the right hand.

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DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY



11

f

I have an i - de - a! A great i - de - a! —

I have an i - de - a! A great i - de - a! —

14

Taking time where needed ♩ = c. 75

mp

Taking time where needed ♩ = c. 75

18

mp

Tell me a sto-ry — I can-not know. Tell me a sto-ry, a

mp

Tell me a sto-ry, a

21

world I can - not go. Tell me of strug-gles and

world I can - not go. Tell me of strug-gles and

24

jour-neys un-seen. The best and the dark-est and all in be-tween.

jour-neys un-seen. The best and the dark-est and all in be-tween.

27

Take my hand, and show to me the

Take my hand, and show to me the

mf

Red. *

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34 *mp*

Play me the mu-sic — I can-not hear. Play me the mu-sic a

mp

Play me the mu-sic — I can-not hear. Play me the mu-sic a

38

call from some-where near. Al-ways — a-round you, yet

call from some-where near. Al-ways — a-round you, yet

41

some-how_ un-known... But know when you sing, you're not sing-ing_ a-lone.

44

mf

Take my hand and show to me the

mf

Take my hand and show to me the

mf

Rec. *

47

Pushing forward

light I can-not see.

light I can-not see.

Pushing forward

51 *mp*

Some - where in the dark we will

mp

Some - where in the dark we will

mp

54

find the key. The light you can - not

find the key.

PREVIEW

57

see, the light is in me, in

the light is in me, in

60 *f* **a tempo**
mf
f *me!* Tell me your sto-ry; — I long to hear. —
mf
me! — Tell me your sto-ry; — I long to hear. —
a tempo
mf

63
 A new i - de - a, a flame that burns so clear. —
 A new i - de - a, a flame that burns so clear.
PREVIEW

66 **Holding back**
 Stand-ing — to-geth-er — we'll weath-er — this night, and look past — our words when they
 Stand-ing to-geth-er we'll weath-er this night, and look past our words when they

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69

8 don't come out right. Hand in hand, while shadows flee

8 don't come out right. Hand in hand, while shadows flee

f
Ped. *

72

8 from light I can not see

8 from light I can not see.

mf
rit.

76 *mp*

8 See the light in me.

8 See the light in me.

mp
Ped.

The Light I Cannot See

"I have an idea. I have an idea.
I have an idea! A great idea!"

Tell me a story I cannot know.
Tell me a story, a world I cannot go.
Tell me of struggles and journeys unseen.
The best and the darkest and all in between.
Take my hand, and show to me the light I cannot see.

Play me the music I cannot hear.
Play me the music, a call from somewhere near.
"Always around you, yet soon show unknown..."
But know when you sing, you're not singing alone.
Take my hand, and show to me the light I cannot see.

Somewhere in the dark we will find the key.
"The light you cannot see, the light is in me, in me!"

Tell me your story; I long to hear.
A new idea, a flame that burns so clear.
Standing together we'll weather this night,
And look past our words when they don't come out right.
Hand in hand, while shadows flee from light I cannot see.

"See the light in me."

Brian A. Foy



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PREVIEW

SBMP1752 A12

