

“Look Away Into Heaven” is a beautiful and moving African-American Spiritual, not as well-known as some other Spirituals and thus providing choirs and audiences with something new. It should be sung in a somewhat folk-like style, and not too “classical.” Singers can employ some gentle scooping (e.g., pick up to m. 2, etc.), and create subtle grace notes in an intuitive manner (e.g. m. 2, “mornings,” rather than two equal quarter notes, the syllable “morn” can be sung as a dotted eighth on the *d* followed by a soft sixteenth on the *c* leading to the *c* on the fourth beat.) The song should feel flowing and elastic, while keeping the sense of pulse. Let the strong emotions of the text create a strong sense of drama.

Brian Tate is an award-winning Vancouver composer/arranger and popular choral clinician and choral director. A frequently commissioned composer, dozens of his choral works are published and his music is performed worldwide. Brian directs Vancouver’s 100-voice City Soul Choir, teaches singing and choir at Studio 58 - Langara College’s professional theatre school - and performs with the world music a cappella vocal trio “TriVo”. Brian has had a lifelong interest in music of the African Diaspora, and has travelled and studied in Cuba and West Africa. He frequently gives choir workshops and is in demand internationally as a clinician and workshop leader. Brian is a passionate advocate of life-long music-making at all levels.

