

catch me

o, catch me, catch me in my youth e'er passing—
leave not a single breath in want of mem'ries.
for when my form—long since—the grass has taken,
the dew shall only sing exultant silence.

by Charlie Leftridge

ABOUT THE TEXT:

This poem is an invocation, perhaps, to lost love or love yet to be found. The removed subject enables the reader or singer to anonymously superimpose their story. In this way, “catch me” exemplifies and celebrates the ephemeral nature of both the speaker and the subject.

ABOUT THE MUSIC:

Conductors should treat the rhythms and tempo fluidly, taking liberty with the ebb and flow of the overall atmosphere. Stretching both individual vocal lines and silences is encouraged.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER:

Having grown up on a small farm in southwestern Minnesota, Charlie Leftridge spent much of his childhood intrinsically involved in nature and the rural church. In this way, Leftridge gained a deep-seated love for both natural aesthetics and hymnody. These aspects color much of his unique compositional voice.

Leftridge received his Masters of Music in Music Composition from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, under the advisement of Dr. Tyler White. Prior to that, he studied at Concordia College, performing with the Concordia Choir, under the direction of Dr. René Clausen, and at Dickinson State University, under the advisement of Dr. Bruce Southard.

Leftridge's works have been performed all over the nation by ensembles such as the MNSU Chamber Singers, under the direction of David Dickau; the Kansas City VITAs, under the direction of Jackson Thomas; and Seattle's The Esoterics, under the direction of Dr. Eric Banks. Most recently, his song cycle for soprano and string quartet, *A Year by the Sea*, based off the *New York Times* best-selling memoir by Joan Anderson, was premiered in 2017 and attended by the author.

Currently, Leftridge actively writes music and poetry, presents at conferences, and advocates for arts and culture intersections through nonprofit and community engagement.