

1.3583

I Celebrate Myself - Michael John Trotta

SSATB Chorus unaccompanied

I Celebrate Myself

Words by

Walt Whitman

Music by

Michael John Trotta

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PROGRAM NOTES

This unaccompanied piece contrasts a simple *unison* motif with an *ostinato* in the lower voices. The homophonic refrain clearly declaims, “all forces have been steadily employed to complete and delight me.” After climaxing with a descant for soprano, the work recedes in intensity with a harmonic restatement of the opening motif.

There is never more than now.

I am the poet of the Body and I am the poet of the Soul.
I see, I dance, I laugh, I sing;

All forces have been steadily employed to complete and delight me,
Now on this spot I stand with my robust soul.

I celebrate myself, and I sing myself,
Every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

There was never any more inception,
Any more youth or age than there is now,
And there will never be any more perfection than there is now.
Never more than now.

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Leaves of Grass

Adapted by Michael John Trotta

PUBLISHER’S NOTES

This piece may be performed as part of a set of four Whitman settings under the master title, ***This Is Thy Hour***. The compositions should be performed in the following order.

This Is Thy Hour	1.3581
Clear and Sweet Is My Soul	1.3582
→ I Celebrate Myself (unaccompanied)	1.3583
We Take Up the Task Eternal	1.3584

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

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www.mjtrotta.com



For the choirs of Jamestown High School, Jamestown, Virginia, Ms. Laurel Christensen, Director

I Celebrate Myself

for SSATB Chorus unaccompanied

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Adapted by Michael John Trotta

Michael John Trotta

(ASCAP)

mp $\text{♩} = 84$

Soprano: There is nev - er more than

Alto: *mp* I am the

Tenor: *mp* I am the

Bass: *mp* I am the

Piano (for rehearsal only) $\text{♩} = 84$

4

now.

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

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[5]

Measure 5: Treble clef, key of D major, whole rest. Bass clef, piano (*p*) accompaniment of eighth notes.

Measure 6: Treble clef, piano (*p*) accompaniment of eighth notes. Bass clef, piano (*p*) accompaniment of eighth notes.

Vocal lines (Soprano, Alto, Bass):
po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

7

Measure 7: Treble clef, mezzo-piano (*mp*) vocal note on 'I', piano (*mp*) accompaniment of eighth notes. Bass clef, piano (*mp*) accompaniment of eighth notes.

Measure 8: Treble clef, mezzo-piano (*mp*) vocal note on 'see,' with a long note, piano (*mp*) accompaniment of eighth notes. Bass clef, piano (*mp*) accompaniment of eighth notes.

Vocal lines (Soprano, Alto, Bass):
po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the



[8]

I dance, I

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

10

laugh, I sing;

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the



[11]

— All — forc - es have been stead - i - ly em - ployed to com -

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been stead - i - ly em - ployed — to com -

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been stead - i - ly em - ployed

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been stead - i - ly em - ployed

14

plete and de - light me, O — Now on this spot I

plete — and de - light — me, — O — Now on this spot I

to com - plete and de - light me, Now — on this spot I

to com - plete and de - light me, Now — on this spot I



17

mf

stand with my ro - bust soul. O I

stand with my ro - bust soul. O I

stand, on this spot I stand with my ro - bust, with my ro-bust soul.

stand, on this spot I stand with my ro - bust, with my ro-bust soul.

stand, on this spot I stand with my ro - bust, with my ro-bust soul.

20

cel - e - brate my - self, and I

cel - e - brate my - self, and I

mf

I cel - e - brate my - self, I sing my - self,

mf

I cel - e - brate my - self, I sing my - self,

I cel - e - brate my - self, I sing my - self,



22

fp

sing my - self,

sing my - self,

I cel - e - brate my - self, I sing, I sing my - self,

I cel - e - brate my - self, I sing, I sing my - self,

24

Ev - ery at - om that be - longs to me as good be - longs, be -

Ev - ery at - om that be - longs to me as good be - longs, be -

Ev - ery at - om that be - longs to me as good be - longs to you, be -

Ev - ery at - om that be - longs to me as good be - longs to you, be -



27 *p*

longs to you. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

longs to you.

longs to you.

longs to you.

29 *sim.*

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

mf There was nev -

mf There was nev -



[30]

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

er an - y

er an - y

The musical score for measures 30-31 features a vocal melody in G major. The vocal line consists of eighth-note runs in the first measure, followed by a half note 'er' and an eighth-note run 'an - y' in the second measure. The piano accompaniment provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

32

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

more in - cep -

more in - cep -

The musical score for measures 32-33 continues the vocal melody. The vocal line has a half note 'more' in the first measure, followed by a half note 'in' and an eighth-note run 'cep -' in the second measure. The piano accompaniment remains consistent with the previous measures.



[33]

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

mf
An - y more youth or

tion, An - y

35

po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Soul.

age than there is

more youth or age than there



37 *mp*

now, — And there will nev - er be — an - y more per - fec - tion than there is

mp

now, — And there will nev - er be an - y more per - fec - tion than there is

mp

is now, nev - er more than

mp

is now, nev - er more than

40 *f*

now, — now, —

now, more per fec - tion than there is now, —

f

now, more per - fec - tion than there is now, —

f

now, — now, —

f

now, — now, —



44 *p* *mp*

nev - er more, _____

nev - er more, _____

nev - er more, _____

nev - er more, _____

48 *p* *mp*

than there is now. _____

than there is now. _____ I am the

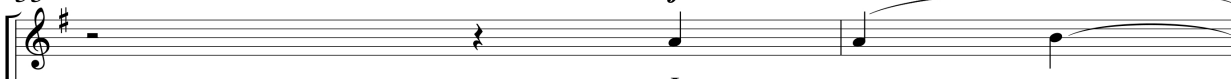
than there is now. _____

than there is now. _____



52
A 
po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the

[53]
A 
po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the
T 
I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the
B 
I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the


55 *mf*
S 
I see,
A 
po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the
T 
po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the
B 
po - et of the Bod - y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod - y and the




[56]

First system of musical notation, measures 56-57. It features a vocal line and three piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "I dance," and another rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff for each of the three parts, with a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

I dance, I

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the

58

Second system of musical notation, measures 58-59. It features a vocal line and three piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "laugh," followed by a rest, then "I sing;". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

laugh, I sing;

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the

po - et of the Bod-y and the po - et of the Soul. I am the po - et of the Bod-y and the



[59]

— All — forc - es have been stead - i - ly em -

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been stead - i - ly em -

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been

po - et of the Soul. All forc - es have been

61

S 1 employed O

S 2 employed to com-plete and de-light me, O

A employed to com - plete and de - light me, O

T stead - i - ly em-plied to com - plete and de - light me, Now

B stead - i - ly em-plied to com - plete and de - light me, Now



64

O

cresc.
Now on this spot I stand with my ro - bust

cresc.
Now on this spot I stand with my ro - bust

cresc.
on this spot I stand, on this spot I stand with my ro - bust,

cresc.
on this spot I stand, on this spot I stand with my ro - bust,

67

soul. O I cel - e - brate my -

f
soul. O I cel - e - brate my -

f
with my ro - bust soul. I cel - e - brate my - self,

f
with my ro - bust soul. I cel - e - brate my - self,



69

cel - e - brate my - self,

self, and I sing my -

self, and I sing my -

I sing my - self, I cel - e - brate my - self,

I sing my - self, I cel - e - brate my - self,

71

and I sing my - self, all good,

self, ev - ery at - om that be -

self, ev - ery at - om that be -

I sing, I sing my - self, ev - ery at - om that be -

I sing, I sing my - self, ev - ery at - om that be -



73

be - longs to you, be -

longs to me as good be - longs, be -

longs to me as good be - longs, be -

longs to me as good be - longs to you, be -

longs to me as good be - longs to you, be -

75

longs to you. *p*

longs to you. *p*

longs to you. *p*

longs to you. *p*

longs to you. *p*



78 *mp* *p*

S Nev - er more than now.

A Nev - er more than now.

T Nev - er more than now.

B Nev - er more than now.

ca. 4:00

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