

to a courageous young woman

Medusa

for women's chorus SSAA
with alto glockenspiel accompaniment

words and music by Stephen Mallon



Medusa

The threat of the trident silenced me.
Forever barren, I bear his blame.
No challenge to power that violates me?
The holy place condemned me to shame.

*What were you wearing?
How did you act?
Were you letting down your hair?*

Yet courage grows beauty inside me,
though I will never be the same.
No resisting the power that validates me,
a winsome face in poison framed.

*Why was he staring?
Stopped in his tracks.
Was there venom in your hair?*

The hardened heart, still bringing the fight;
would brandish my head in the air.
Turn now the mirror. Bring into the light;
the exposure that he cannot bear:

*His approach was so daring?
He turned his back;
on the one he tried to ensnare?*

If looks could kill, the monster in view
is none other than one of your own.
Am I making it hard for you?
Yes! You are turning to stone!

*Be silent no more!
We have a voice!
You are not alone.*

Accompaniment Notes:

If a celesta is available, it may be used in lieu of an alto glockenspiel. To reduce difficulty, the alto glockenspiel part may be divided between two players. If alto glockenspiels with sufficient range are not available, other chromatic percussion instruments may be used with adjustment of dynamics as necessary for balance. (amplification is not recommended)

For example:

- For a larger chorus, a handbell ensemble may be used.
- For a very small chorus, a hammered dulcimer may be used.

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Moderato ♩ = 108

Musical score for the first system of 'Medusa'. It features four staves: Soprano Soli, Soprano, Alto, and Alto Glockenspiel. The Soprano Soli staff is empty. The Soprano and Alto vocal staves have lyrics 'aah - - - mm' and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Alto Glockenspiel staff has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The music is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first measure is in 3/4, the second in 5/4, and the third in 3/4.



A Verse 1

Musical score for the second system of 'Medusa', labeled 'Verse 1'. It features four staves: S. Soli, S., A., and Alto Glock. The S. Soli staff is empty. The S. and A. vocal staves have lyrics 'aah - - - mm' and 'The threat of the' and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Alto Glock staff has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The music is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first measure is in 3/4, the second in 5/4, and the third in 3/4.

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9 *mf* *hand over mouth* **B**

S. Soli

mm

S. tri - dent si - lenced me. For - ev - er

A. tri - dent si - lenced me. For - ev - er

Alto Glock

14

S. Soli

S. bar - ren, I bear his blame. — No

A. bar - ren, I bear his blame. — No

Alto Glock

mp *mf*