

# *High Flight*

Christopher Marshall



In honor of John Perkins,  
Co-Founder of The Orlando Chorale,  
who has dedicated his life to enriching lives  
through the performing arts

# *High Flight*

A Song for Choir with Alto Saxophone  
by  
Christopher Marshall

To a text by  
John Gillespie Magee

Commissioned by The Orlando Chorale  
in 2008

Duration: approximately 9'30"

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'Vaia'ata'

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*Vaia'ata Print*



## *High Flight*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . .  
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace,  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew –  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee (1922-1941)

Used by kind permission of Rev. Hugh Magee



In Honor of John Perkins

# High Flight

John Gillespie Magee  
(by permission of Hugh Magee)

Commissioned by The Orlando Chorale

Christopher Marshall

ATTN: Perusal score only!  
One print-out allowed.  
Please do not copy!

**Largo** (♩ = ca. 48)

Alto Saxophone

SOPRANO

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR

BASS

*p with feeling*

*mp always gentle, expressive*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of Earth And

*p with feeling*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of Earth And

*p with feeling*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of Earth And

*p with feeling*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of Earth And

*p with feeling*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of Earth And

7

**A**

*mf*

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun - ward I've

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun - ward I've

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun - ward I've

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun - ward I've

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun - ward I've

13

climbed, and joined the tumb - - - ling

climbed, and joined the tumb - - - ling

climbed, and joined the tumb - - - ling

climbed, and joined the tumb - ling mirth, I've climbed and joined the

climbed, and joined the tumb - - - ling

*rhythmic, slightly detached*

16

*mp* 3

mirth Of sun - - - split clouds, and

mirth Of sun - - - split clouds, and

*rhythmic, slightly detached*

mirth Of sun-split clouds and joined the tumb - ling mirth of sun - split clouds, and

tumb-ling mirth Of sun - - - split clouds, and

mirth Of sun - - - split clouds, and

19 **B**

\* slight emphasis, dynamic only

*mf*

done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of: wheeled

done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of: wheeled

done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

24

*pp*

rhythmic, slightly detached

wheeled and soared and swung, I've wheeled and soared and swung in the

and soared and swung High

wheeled and soared and swung

and soared and swung, I've

wheeled and soared and swung High

27

*mp*

3

sun - lit si - - lence, the sun - lit si - - lence.  
 in the sun - - lit si - - lence.  
 High in the sun - - lit si - - lence.  
 wheeled and soared\_ and swung in the sun - lit, sun - lit si - - lence.  
 in the sun - - lit si - - lence.

**C**

30

3

3

3

3

Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - - ing  
 Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - - ing  
 Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - - ing  
 Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - ing wind\_ a-long, I've chased the  
 Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - - ing

34

wind a - long and flung My  
 wind a - long and flung My  
 wind a - long and flung My  
 shout - ing wind, the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My  
 rhythmic, slightly detached  
 wind, the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air, my

37

**D**  
 ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air. Up,  
 ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air. Up,  
 ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air. Up,  
 ea - ger craft through foot - less halls, foot - less halls of air. Up,  
 ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air. Up,

42

*mp* 3 3 3 3 3 3

up the long, de - li - rious burn - ing blue, the long, de - li - rious burn - ing

up the long, de - li - rious burn - - ing blue I've

up the long, de - li - rious burn - - ing

up the long, de - li - rious burn - - ing

up the long, de - li - rious burn - ing blue I've topped the wind - swept

46

*mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

blue I've topped the wind - - swept

topped the wind - swept, wind - swept heights, I've topped the wind - - swept

blue I've topped the wind - - swept

blue I've topped the wind - swept heights with ea - sy grace, the

heights with ea - sy grace, I've topped the wind - - swept

49

**E**

heights with easy grace, Where  
 heights with easy grace, Where  
 heights with easy grace, Where  
 wind - swept, wind - swept heights Where ne - ver lark, or e - ven eag - le flew, where  
 heights with easy grace, Where

52

ne - ver lark, or e - ven, or e - ven eag - le flew.  
 ne - ver lark, or e - ven, or e - ven eag - le flew.  
 ne - ver lark, or e - ven, e - ven eag - le flew.  
 ne - ver lark, or e - ven, e - ven eag - le flew.  
 ne - ver lark, or e - ven, or e - ven eag - le flew.

58 **F** Poco meno mosso (♩ = ca.40)

Musical score for measures 58-63. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features six staves: five treble clefs and one bass clef. The music includes various dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are several triplets and sixteenth-note passages. The first staff has a fermata over the first two measures. The second staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The third staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The fourth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The fifth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The sixth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The letter 'F' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the first staff.

Musical score for measures 64-69. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features six staves: five treble clefs and one bass clef. The music includes various dynamics such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are several triplets, sextuplets, and sixteenth-note passages. The first staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The second staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The third staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The fourth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The fifth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The sixth staff has a fermata over the first two measures and a slur over the last two measures. The letter 'G' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the first staff.

69

mf

[a]

mf

mf

[a]

**H** Piu Mosso (♩. = ca. 54)

75

Sax. *p*

*f joyful, energetic*

S. Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of *f joyful, energetic*

A. Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds, the *f joyful, energetic*

T. Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds, the *f joyful, energetic*

B. Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of

79

Earth And danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered

bonds of Earth And danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered

bonds of Earth And danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered,

Earth And danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered,

82

wings; Sun-ward I've climbed and joined the tum - bling mirth Of

wings; Sun-ward I've climbed and joined the tum - bling mirth Of

laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun-ward I've climbed and joined the tum - bling mirth Of

laugh - ter - sil - vered wings; Sun-ward I've climbed and joined the tum - bling mirth Of

86

pp

sun - split clouds and done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

sun - split clouds and done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

sun - split clouds and done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

sun - split clouds and done a hun - dred things You have not dreamed of:

I

90

*mf*

*f graceful*

wheeled and soared and swung

*f graceful*

wheeled and soared and swung

*f graceful*

wheeled and soared and swung

*f graceful*

wheeled and soared and swung

8:6

95

High in the sun - lit si - lence.

High in the sun - lit si - lence.

High in the sun - lit si - lence.

High in the sun - lit si - lence.

**J**

99

Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My ea - ger

Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My ea - ger

Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My ea - ger

Ho - v'ring there, I've chased the shout - ing wind a - long and flung My ea - ger

102

craft through foot - less halls of air.

craft through foot - less halls of air.

craft through foot - less halls of air.

craft through foot - less halls of air.

**K**

104

Up, up the wild de - li - rious burn - ing blue I've topped the

Up, up the wild de - li - rious burn - ing blue I've topped the

Up, up the wild de - li - rious burn - ing blue I've topped the

Up, up the wild de - li - rious burn - ing blue I've topped the

108

wind - swept heights\_ with ea - sy grace, \_\_\_\_\_ Where ne - ver

wind - swept heights with ea - sy grace, \_\_\_ with ea - sy grace, Where ne - ver

wind - swept heights with ea - sy grace, with ea - sy grace, Where ne - ver

wind - swept heights with ea - sy grace, with ea - sy grace, Where ne - ver

111

**L**

lark, nor e - ven eag - le flew, \_\_\_ nor e - ven ea - - gle flew. \_\_\_\_\_

lark, nor e - ven eag - le flew, \_\_\_ nor e - ven ea - - gle flew. \_\_\_\_\_

lark, nor e - ven eag - le flew, \_\_\_ nor e - ven ea - - gle flew. \_\_\_\_\_

lark, nor e - ven eag - le flew, nor e - ven ea - - gle flew. \_\_\_\_\_

116

M

*pp*

*p with feeling*

And, while with si - lent lift - ing mind I've trod\_\_\_\_\_ The high un -

*p with feeling*

And, while with si - lent lift - ing mind I've trod\_\_\_\_\_ The high un -

*p with feeling*

And, while with si - lent lift - ing mind I've trod\_\_\_\_\_ The high un -

*p with feeling*

And, while with si - lent lift - ing mind I've trod\_\_\_\_\_ The high un -

120

-tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of space,\_\_\_\_\_

-tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of space,\_\_\_\_\_

-tres - passed sanc - ti - ty, the sanc - ti - ty of space,\_\_\_\_\_

-tres - passed sanc - ti - ty, the sanc - ti - ty of space,\_\_\_\_\_

123

Put out my hand and touched the face of God, the face of

Put out my hand and touched the face of God, the face of

Put out my hand and touched the face of God, the face of

Put out my hand and touched the face of God, the face of

126

**N**  
*mp*

*pp*  
God.

*pp*  
God, of God.

*pp*  
God, of God.

*pp*  
God, of God.

130 *expressive, flexible*

rit. -

135 **O** **Tempo 1** (♩ = ca. 48)

Sax. *pp* *mp* 3 3 3 3 3

S. *p*  
And, while with si - - lent lift - ing

A1. *p*  
And, while with si - - lent lift - ing

A2. *p*  
And, while with si - - lent lift - ing

T. *p*  
And, while with si - - lent lift - ing

B. *p*  
And, while with si - - lent lift - ing

139

*pp* *mp*

mind I've trod The un - tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of

mind I've trod The un - tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of

mind I've trod The un - tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of

mind I've trod The un - tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of

mind I've trod The un - tres - passed sanc - ti - ty of

144

**P** *p* *mf*

*mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

space, Put out my hand and touched the face of

space, Put out my hand and touched the face of

space, Put out my hand and touched the face of

space, Put out my hand and touched the face of

space, Put out my hand and touched the face of

149

God, put out my hand and

God, put out my hand and

God, put out my hand and touched the face of God, put out my hand and

God, put out my hand, put out my hand and touched the

152

**Q**

touched the face of God, put

touched the face of God, put

touched the face of God, put

face of God, and touched the face of God, put

touched the face of God, put out my hand and touched the

155

out my hand, put out my hand and touched the face of God, the face of  
 out my hand and touched his  
 out my hand and touched his  
 out my hand, put out my  
 face of God, put out my hand and touched his

**R**

158

God, put out my  
 face, put out my  
 face, put out my hand and  
 hand, put out my hand and touched the face of God, put  
 face, put out my



# Vaia'ata Print

## Choral Music of Christopher Marshall

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<i>Advent Triptych</i>	SATB (bass + soprano solos in #2), Moderate/advanced, ±9".
<i>Alas For Those Who Never Sing</i>	TTBB, Moderate/advanced, ±3".
<i>Bless This House!</i>	SATB, solo sop. & bar., org., 3 tpt., 3 tbn., timp., 2 perc. Moderate/advanced, ±10".
<i>Cançó del Mar</i>	Double SATB, cl., b.cl., hp., vln., vcl., d.b. Moderate/advanced, ±10".
<i>Christmas Carols from New Zealand</i>	SATB, #1 'a cappella', #2 + organ and descant. Easy/moderate, ±6".
<i>Consider the Lilies</i>	SATB (some divisions, optional alto solo), Moderate, ±3".
<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i>	SSATBB, Easy/moderate, ±5".
<i>Earth Song</i>	SA, 3 tamb., sop. instruments (ad lib), Moderate, ±5".
<i>Earthsong</i>	SA (children), SATB + full orchestra, Moderate, ±15".
<i>Epitaph</i>	TTBB, Easy, ±2".
<i>Emily's Songs</i>	SATB, Moderate/advanced, ±4".
<i>Golden Carol</i>	SATB, Easy/moderate, ±3".
<i>Hanukkah In Santa Monica</i>	TTBB, Moderate, ±4".
<i>High Flight</i>	SATB + alto sax, Moderate/advanced, ±11".
<i>I Hold Your Hand In Mine</i>	SSATB, Easy, ±3".
<i>Kyrie: Gaia</i>	SATB + sop. solo, pno., org., strgs., perc., Moderate/advanced, ±20".
<i>La Rose</i>	SATB (divisions in all parts) + ten., sop. soloists, Advanced, ±6".
<i>Levavi Oculos Meos</i>	Double SATB, Easy/moderate, ±5".
<i>Nobody</i>	SSATBB, Moderate/advanced, ±3".
<i>O Fragile Human</i>	SATB (different voicings with divisions, solos in some songs), Moderate/advanced, ±25".
<i>Pastorale</i>	TTBB, solo sop., fl., ob., c.a., cl., b.cl., bsn., vib., Moderate/advanced, ±10".
<i>Real Gods</i>	SATB (some divisions, optional alto solo), Advanced, ±8".
<i>Samoa Sings</i>	SSAA or TTBB (divisions, solos in some songs), Moderate, ±10".
<i>Songs of Samoa</i>	SATB (divisions, solos in some songs), Moderate, ±15".
<i>Tangi</i>	SATB + mezzo-soprano solo. Moderate/advanced, ±12".
<i>The Desert Shall Blossom</i>	SATB. Advanced, ±4".
<i>The Last Ones</i>	SATB + piano. Moderate, ±5".
<i>The Water of Life</i>	SATB (some divisions) + organ. Moderate, ±5".
<i>This Big Moroccan Sea</i>	SATB (divisions in all parts) + soprano and tenor solos. Advanced, ±4".
<i>To The Horizon (Images of New Zealand)</i>	SATB (different voicings, divisions, solos), Moderate/advanced, ±30".
<i>Two Samoan Songs</i>	SA + piano, Easy, ±5".
<i>U Trau</i>	SSAATB + 2 wind ensembles, Moderate, ±11".
<i>Wings</i>	SAB + piano, Easy, ±3".
<i>With Love At Christmas</i>	SATB (some divisions), Moderate, ±5".

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