

Music of

JED SCOTT

*Commissioned by MSVMA in celebration
of Ginny Kerwin's distinguished leadership*

Towards a Brighter Future

*Text drawn from speeches of
Nelson Mandela*

SATB choir A Cappella

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of Ginny Kerwin's distinguished leadership

Towards a Brighter Future

Composed by
JED SCOTT

Text drawn from speeches of
NELSON MANDELA

♩ = ca. 120, in one

mf

What counts in life is not the mere

6 *poco rit.*

fact that we have lived.

10 *a tempo* *

It is what dif - fer - rence we have made in the

14

lives, made in the lives of others

* this musical phrase comes from Ich lasse dich nicht by
Johann Christoph Bach, uncle of J.S. Bach and direct
ancestor of Ginny Kerwin.

Towards a Brighter Future

20

that will de - ter - mine the sig - ni - fi - cance of the life we

♩ = ca. 80, Joyfully Resolute

26

rit.

lead. Be the script wri - ters of your des - ti - ny,

30

and fea - ture your - selves as the stars that showed the way towards a

34

cresc.

Rall. . . .

bright - er, bright - er, bright - er fu - ture.

TEXT

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

“Be the scriptwriters of your destiny & feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future”

- Nelson Mandela

ABOUT THE PIECE

I was commissioned by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) to write “Towards a Brighter Future” to celebrate the retirement of Ginny Kerwin after twenty years of distinguished leadership as Executive Director of MSVMA.

Both Ginny and MSVMA have meant so much to me both professionally and personally over my career, and I was honored to be able to write the piece.

The piece is written as a way to set intention for a group - the intention of a concert, of an ensemble, or more specifically to begin a meeting or conference with singing. Ginny Kerwin selected two quotes from Nelson Mandela, and they work well together: the first is a reflection on what’s important in life, and the second is a call to action. Together, the two texts support each other perfectly.

I wrote the melody of this piece while in the woods of Western Massachusetts, on Alice Parker’s Singing Brook Farm. I harmonized it later, drawing inspiration from choral standards. I was especially pleased to include a direct reference to *Ich lasse dich nicht* by Johann Christoph Bach. Not only does Ginny descend directly from this composer uncle of J.S. Bach, but she also shared with me a memorable performance of this work from her own high school choir experience.

Enjoy the piece, and accept its call to action!

- Jed Scott