



## Hussein Janmohamed

[www.husseinjanmohamed.com](http://www.husseinjanmohamed.com)

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### About the Artist

**Hussein Janmohamed** is a singer, composer, conductor, scholar and educator passionate about the role the vocal arts can play in forming intercultural identities, connecting across cultures, inspiring social conscience and enlivening the human spirit.

A South Asian Ismaili Muslim, born in Kenya, raised in Central Alberta and nurtured in British Columbia, music was the source for him to sustain a quest for harmony in the face of racism and discrimination. Diverse traditions of group singing bridged Hussein's experience in school choirs with Ismaili congregational music enabling the formation of new Canadian musical identity. Knowing the transformative power of singing to bridge difference, Hussein works with diverse organizations, communities, schools and artists to integrate choral approaches of the highest level with global vocal arts practices to support the ongoing quest for intercultural dialogue and identities.

Hussein has sung with the Elmer Iseler Singers as the James T. Chesnut Choral Scholar. He has also sung with Chor Leon Men's Choir, Laudate Singers, Phoenix Chamber Choir (Vancouver), UBC University Singers, All-Saints Kingsway Choir and the National Youth Choir. Hussein has conducted the Vancouver Peace Choir, regional and national Ismaili Muslim Youth Choirs, global music ensembles, Nai Kids Choir, and Sarah McLachlan School of Music Children's Choir.

Hussein's compositions use traditional and contemporary techniques combined with influences from his pluralistic cultural heritage and lived experience, to animate a universal quest for peace, harmonious coexistence and inclusion. Notable commission highlights include *Grateful Heart* (2020, by Amabile Choirs of London); *These Trees, the Lungs* (2016, Ontario Presents & the Aga Khan Museum); *The Wedding* (2019, Chorus America Commission Consortium); *Rise Children, Rise to Peace* (2018, Classical Movements Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program for Nai Kids Choir); *Nūr: Reflections on Light* (2014, Aga Khan Museum); *Gatherings* with Lil'wat writer Russell Wallace, (2004, by West Coast Sacred Arts Society for a tribute concert to His Holiness Dalai Lama, co-composed). In 2021 Hussein worked with Russell Wallace and Amirali Alibhai (Aga Khan Museum) to co-compose *Lament: Bearing Witness* an artistic community response bearing witness to the discovery of unmarked graves of First Nation children at residential school sites across Canada.

Hussein invites communities around the world to join in exploring new approaches to intercultural choral creation and vocal arts education that enliven universal humanistic traditions of peace, harmony and inclusion.

## Program Notes

**Sun on Water** originated while living at Fool's Paradise - Canadian artist Doris McCarthy's home and studio through the *Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program of the Ontario Heritage Trust*.

Sun on Water finds its inspiration in the mystery of winter sunrises on Toronto's Scarborough Bluffs. The colours of the rising sun over Lake Ontario revealed a palpable silence and yearning from which the music emerged. The piece, written specially for *Toronto's Amadeus Choir*, is for a cappella choir. The texts and musical influences draw from Western choral music, Arabic rhythms, Sufi, Muslim and South Asian devotional traditions.

Sun on Water begins quietly as deep waters rumble underneath. Sonic layers reflect the yearning of the sun and water, like lover and beloved, for each other. A burst of sun breaks forth. Yet, as the sun's rays shimmer on the surface of the lake, the deep water still echoes their mutual yearning for ultimate union.

- Hussein Janmohamed

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## Text, Translation & Pronunciation

### **Surya**

[surya]

*Sun, Supreme Light*

### **Nayno(n) se nayn milavo, mere Saheb**

[nē nō se nē nā milo vō mere sahēbā]

*Let my eye meet with yours, my Lord/Master/Beloved*

### **De profundis clamavi ad te Domine:**

[dē profun dis clamāvi ad tē dō mi nē]

*Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord:*

### **Domine exaudi vocem meam**

[dō mi nē egzāudi vot(ē) mēam]

*Lord, hear my voice.*

For the Amadeus Choir; Lydia Adams conductor & Artistic Director  
With thanks to the Ontario Heritage Trust Davis McCarthy Artist in Residence Program

# Sun On Water

SATB (divisi)

text from Psalm 130, Hindustani  
& Indo Ismaili Muslim traditional

music by Hussein Janmohamed

silent witnessing  
tempo rubato ♩ = 72-88

S  
Su - - - - - rya,  
A  
Su - - - - - rya,  
T  
B

*Individually sung, random entries, chant like, gradually fade until measure 14*

*p*  
oo - - - - -

6 Su - - - - - rya, Su - - - - - *mp*  
Su - - - - - rya, Su - - - - - *mp*  
Su - - - - - *p*  
Su - - - - -

*continue chant in a staggered fashion...*

Sun On Water

10

*p* rya. Su - - - rya. Su - - - rya.

*p* rya. Su - - - rya. Su - - - rya.

*p* rya. Su - - - rya. Su - - - rya.

*pp* begin fading

15

**A** tempo giusto ♩ = 144

*mp* bring repeat of the conductor's attention mysterious ♩ = 72-80

De pro - fun - dis, De -

De pro - fun - dis, De

De pro - fun - dis, De

*mp*

Ne - n' - ne-no-sei Ne - n' - ne-no-sei Ne - n' - ne-no-sei Ne - n' - mi-la-vo

Sun On Water

19

*accel. poco a poco*

pro - fun - dis, ad te, cla - ma -

pro - fun - dis

pro - fun - dis

Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei

Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei

22

*accel. poco a poco*

vi. De pro - fun - dis, cla - ma -

pro - fun - dis, cla - ma -

De pro - fun - dis, cla - ma -

Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei

Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei

Sun On Water

26

*mf*  
 - - vi, ne - no sei ne - ne - mi - la - vo - o mei - rei  
 (ma) - vi ne - no sei ne - ne mi - la - vo  
 ad te, cla - ma - - - vi, ad te, ad  
 (ma) - vi cla - ma - - - vi ad te, ad  
*cres. poco a poco*  
 Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo  
*cres. poco a poco*  
 Ne - n' - mi - la - vo Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo

29

$\text{♩} = 76-88$

sa - he - be, cla - ma - - - vi, ad te, cla - ma - vi  
 sa - te, - he - be, cla - ma - - - vi, ad te, cla - ma - vi  
*cres.* te, cla - ma - - - vi, cla - ma - vi, ad te, cla - ma - vi  
 Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo De - pro - fun - - - dis  
 Ne - n' - ne - no - sei Ne - n' - mi - la - vo De - pro - fun - - - dis

Sun On Water

**B** bursting, blinding light

33 *ff* me - - - am, Do-mi-ne, Do-mi-

*dim.*

Ex-au - di, Do-mi-ne, vo - ce me - am hmm

Ex-au - di, Do-mi-ne vo - ce me - am hmm

Ex-au - di, Do-mi-ne vo - ce me - am hmm

Ex-au - di, Do-mi-ne, vo - ce me - am hmm

Ex-au - di, Do-mi-ne, vo - ce me - am hmm

39 *p* ne me-am hmm

hmm

*p*

*p*

De pro-fun - dis hmm

*p*

ad te hmm pro - fun - dis.

*p*

ad te hmm pro - fun - dis.