

ADVICE TO A UNICORN

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Poem by

EJNER JENSEN (1937-2020)

Music by

BRUCE TRINKLEY

Advice to a Unicorn

*Since you were born with just one horn
What should you do? Wish you had two?
Feel low and blue? Lament and rue
Your blighted birth on this hard earth?*

*Why not devise some genial lies?
As a wordsmith, a creature with
No kin or kith can still make myth
And you could claim some earthly fame.*

*Claim you're a horse (not quite, of course)
Whose signs of grace and noble pace
Earn you a place above the race
Of human kind or earth-born mind,*

*And you will gain a lasting reign
In every art you'll have a part
Your horn a dart to pierce the heart,
Each virgin sigh to see you die.*

*And then at last your myth will harden
Become a statue in the garden.*

Professor Ejner Jensen
October 6, 1993

The poem appears on a plaque next to a statue of a unicorn in the garden of the Michigan League on the campus of the University of Michigan. Professor Jensen had been asked to speak at the dedication of the statue - which led to the composition of the poem.

Advice to a Unicorn

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Ejner Jensen (1937-2020)

Bruce Trinkley

Adagio con moto ♩ = 80

Soprano *mp* Since

Alto *mp* Since

Tenor *mp* Since

Bass *mp* Since

Piano *mp* *sonore*

5 you were born ___ with just one horn ___ What should you do? Wish you had two? Feel

you were born ___ with just one horn ___ What should you do? Wish you had two? Feel

you were born ___ with just one horn ___ What should you do? Wish you had two? Feel

5 you were born ___ with just one horn ___ What should you do? Wish you had

9 *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *dim.*

low and blue? La - ment and rue Your blight - ed birth on this hard

9 *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *dim.*

low and blue? La - ment and rue Your blight - ed birth on this hard

9 *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *dim.*

low and blue? La - ment and rue Your blight - ed birth on this hard

9 *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *dim.*

two? Feel blue? La - ment and rue Your blight - ed birth on this hard

13 *mp* *mf*

earth? Why not de - vise some gen - ial lies?

13 *mp* *mf*

earth? Why not de - vise some gen - ial lies?

13 *mp* *mf*

earth? Why not de - vise some gen - ial lies?

13 *mp* *mf*

earth? Why not de - vise some gen - ial lies?

17 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

As a word-smith, a crea - ture with No kin or kith can still make myth And

mp *cresc.* *f*

As a word-smith, a crea - ture with No kin or kith can still make myth And

mp *cresc.* *f*

As a word-smith, a crea - ture with No kin or kith can still make myth And

mp *cresc.* *f*

As a word-smith, a crea - ture with No kin or kith can still make myth And

17 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

21

you could claim some earth - ly fame. _____

you could claim some earth - ly fame. _____

8 you could claim some earth - ly fame. _____

you could claim some earth - ly fame. _____

21

25 *mf*

Claim you're a horse (not quite, of course) Whose signs of grace and no - ble pace

Claim you're a horse (not quite, of course) Whose signs of grace and no - ble pace

Claim you're a horse (not quite, of course) Whose signs of grace and no - ble pace

Claim you're a horse (not quite, of course) Whose signs of grace and no - ble pace

25 *mf*

29 *mp*

Earn you a place a - bove the race Of h - uman kind or earth - born mind, _____

Earn you a place a - bove the race Of h - uman kind or earth - born mind, _____

Earn you a place a - bove the race Of h - uman kind or earth - born mind, _____

Earn you a place a - bove the race Of h - uman kind or earth - born mind, _____

29 *mp*

Adagio espressivo $\text{♩} = 66$

molto allarg. *p* *mp*

And you will gain a last - ing reign. In ev - 'ry art you'll

And you will gain a last - ing reign. In ev - 'ry art you'll

And you will gain a last - ing reign. In ev - 'ry art you'll

And you will gain a last - ing reign. In

molto allarg.

mf *molto cantabile* *sub. p*

have a part Your horn a dart to pierce the heart, Each

mf *molto cantabile* *sub. p*

have a part Your horn a dart to pierce the heart, Each

mf *molto cantabile* *sub. p*

have a part Your horn a dart to pierce the heart, Each

mf *molto cantabile* *sub. p*

ev - 'ry art you'll have a part Your horn a dart to pierce the heart, Each

38

42 vir - gin sigh to see you ___ die. ___ And then at last ___ your myth will hard - en ___ Be -

vir - gin sigh to see you ___ die. ___ And then at last ___ your myth will hard - en ___ Be -

vir - gin sigh to see you ___ die. ___ And then at last ___ your myth will hard - en ___ Be -

42 vir - gin sigh to see you ___ die. ___ And then at last ___ your myth will hard - en ___ Be -

p *sonore*

46 *non cresc.* come a stat - ue in the gar - den. ___

come a stat - ue in the gar - den. ___

come a stat - ue in the gar - den. ___

46 *div.* come a stat - ue in the gar - den. ___

come a stat - ue in the gar - den. ___

46 *8va*