



# *Journey On*

Music by Casey Gorab  
Text by Allie and Josh Lisner

SATB with Piano

## Note from the Poet and Commissioner

When I sat down to write this text and decided to commission a piece of music for the Edison High School graduation ceremony, I spent months reflecting on my own time in high school and observing my students' experiences. What became clear was one undeniable truth: the high school years are filled with growth, loss, love, heartbreak, and intense emotions. It's a time of heartache and joy, laughter and sadness—one that most people look back on with mixed emotions.

As a teacher, I have the rare privilege of witnessing students' journeys over the course of several years. To see them grow, change, and come into their own is a gift I cherish myself each day. It is one of the reasons it is so difficult for me when they move on and graduate. However watching them go out into the world and take the lessons they've learned truly fills me with joy. This text, written together with my wife, was born from that understanding. We wanted to capture the complexity of the high school experience and convey the very real emotions that accompany such a formative time in life and the journey and lessons that accompany that.

In the first verse, we explore the feelings of "Facing the Unknown." This reflects the early moments of high school, or any new beginning, where uncertainty, fear, and nerves dominate. Some may feel excited, but many—at least in my experience—are hesitant and cautious about what lies ahead. But soon after, they start to find their way.

The second verse focuses on embracing the journey, a moment when growth and discovery begin to take hold. It's about realizing that we are always in transition, constantly moving toward new beginnings. It is here that students begin to feel empowered by their own choices and find their voices.

In the third verse, the song shifts to reminiscing. As students approach the end of their high school journey, they begin to reflect on all they've been through—the friendships, the struggles, the memories. This verse speaks to the importance of cherishing those connections, even as they recognize that this chapter is coming to a close.

Each chorus was intentionally crafted with subtle differences to reflect the ever-evolving nature of the journey. While there is a sense of familiarity, the small changes show that with time, we grow, learn, and move forward.

At the core of this piece is the choir program's motto: "**Find Your Voice.**" This phrase holds deep significance. It speaks to both the musical aspect of discovering one's vocal abilities and the broader personal growth that comes from gaining confidence and self-assurance. It's a message I believe in deeply, and one that I wanted to weave throughout the text.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my loving wife, whose unwavering support made this possible. Together, we shaped this narrative, and her guidance has been invaluable. I am endlessly grateful for her partnership, both in life, my high school experience, and in the creation of this piece.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey and for letting this song accompany you as you take your next steps.

Josh Lisner  
Director of Choirs and Vocal Music  
Edison High School, Edison NJ

For the graduating seniors of Edison High School—commissioned with love by Josh Lisner.  
May you cherish every moment and continue to Find your Voice. Thank you for the memories and laughter.

# Journey On

Text by Allie and Josh Lisner

for SATB Voices and Piano

Music by Casey Gorab

$\text{♩} = 78$

Soprano: I took the first step fa-cing the unknown. The path was un-

Alto: I took the first step fa-cing the unknown. The path was un-

Tenor: I took the first step The path was un-

Bass: I took the first step The path was un-

Piano:  $\text{♩} = 78$

5

Soprano: I felt so a-lone I grew and stood tall

Alto: clear and I felt so a-lone With ev-e-ry stru-ggle I grew and stood tall

Tenor: clear and I felt so a-lone With ev-e-ry stru-ggle I grew and stood tall

Bass: I felt so a-lone I grew and stood tall

Piano:  $\text{♩} = 78$

A

sear- ching for my voice through the cha- os of it all Ev- ery day\_ I grew more

sear- ching for my voice through the cha- os of it all Ev- ery day\_ I grew more

Ev- ery day\_ I grew more

A

sure\_\_\_\_\_ and found my strength through all that I en- dured Like an ea-

sure, and found my strength through all that I en- dured

sure\_\_\_\_\_ and found my strength through all that I en- dured Like an ea-

sure\_\_\_\_\_ and found my strength through all that I en- dured

15 **B**

gle \_\_\_\_\_ spread - ing its wings I will learn \_\_\_\_\_ to fly

Like an ea-gle \_\_\_\_\_ spread - ing its wings \_\_\_\_\_ I will learn \_\_\_\_\_ to fly

gle \_\_\_\_\_ spread - ing its wings I will learn,

Like an ea-gle \_\_\_\_\_ spread - ing its wings \_\_\_\_\_ I will learn,

**B**

18

climb - ing to new heights I will

climb - ing to new heights I will

I will learn to fly \_\_\_\_\_ to new heights I will

I will learn to fly \_\_\_\_\_ to new heights I will

soar through the sky With cour-age and strength I will jour-ney on

soar through the sky

soar through the sky With cour-age and strength I will jour-ney on

soar through the sky

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 21 through 23. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "soar through the sky With courage and strength I will journey on". The piano part consists of a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Op-en-ing the page

I will cher-ish each mo-ment Know-ing time is pass-ing on Op-en-ing the page

Op-en-ing the page

I will cher-ish each mo-ment Know-ing time is pass-ing on Op-en-ing the page

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 24 through 26. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Op-en-ing the page", "I will cherish each moment Know-ing time is pass-ing on", and "Op-en-ing the page". The piano part continues with a rhythmic accompaniment.

27

to this brand new chap-ter Find-ing friends, shar-ing mem-or-ies and

to this brand new chap-ter Find-ing friends, shar-ing mem-or-ies and

to this brand new chap-ter Find-ing friends, shar-ing mem-or-ies and

to this brand new chap-ter Find-ing friends, shar-ing mem-or-ies and

30

laugh-ter I will jour-ney on C

laugh-ter I will jour-ney on With each new step, I pushed fear a-

laugh-ter I will jour-ney on With each new step, I pushed fear a-

laugh-ter I will jour-ney on C

34

I pushed fear a - side The jour-ney be - came my strength, my heart be - came my guide.

side The jour-ney be - came my strength, my heart be - came my guide.

side The jour-ney be - came my strength, my heart be - came my guide.

I pushed fear a - side. The jour-ney be - came my strength, my heart be - came my guide.

37

Through growth and dis-co-v'ry I found I had a choice or to find my or to find my

Through growth and dis-co-v'ry I found I had a choice to stum-ble and fall find my

I found I had a choice to stum-ble and fall find my

I found I had a choice or to find my

41 **D**

voice more free and I de-ci-ded a bright-er fu-ture is wai-ting for me Like an ea-

voice Ev-ery day I grew more free and I de-ci-ded a bright-er fu-ture is wai-ting for me

voice Ev-ery day I grew more free and I de-ci-ded a bright-er fu-ture is wai-ting for me Like an ea-

voice more free and I de-ci-ded a bright-er fu-ture is wai-ting for me

**D**

45 **E**

- gle spread-ing its wings I am rea-dy to fly

Like an ea - gle spread-ing its wings I am rea-dy to fly

- gle spread-ing its wings I am rea-dy

Like an ea - gle spread-ing its wings I am rea-dy

**E**

I must climb to new heights and\_\_\_\_\_

I must climb to new heights and\_\_\_\_\_

I am rea - dy to fly\_\_\_\_\_ to new heights and\_\_\_\_\_

I am rea - dy to fly\_\_\_\_\_ to new heights and\_\_\_\_\_

soar through the sky With cour- age and strength I am jour- ney - ing on

soar\_\_\_\_\_ through the sky

soar through\_\_\_\_\_ the sky With cour- age and strength I am jour- ney ing on\_

soar through\_\_\_\_\_ the sky

54

Turn-ing\_ the page

Cher-ish-ing each mo - ment wat-ching oth\_ ers move on\_ Turn-ing\_ the page

Turn-ing\_ the page

Cher-ish-ing each mo - ment wat-ching oth\_ ers move on\_ Turn-ing\_ the page

57

to an-oth - er chap-ter Their mark will stay long

to an-oth - er chap-ter Their mark will stay long

to an-oth - er chap-ter While friend-ships may fade

to an-oth - er chap-ter While friend-ships may fade

F

aft-er as I jour-ney on

aft-er as I jour-ney on

As I jour - ney on

As I jour - ney on

Now look-ing

Now look-ing

Now look-ing

Now look-ing

back at the mo-ments that we've shared

back at the mo-ments that we've shared

back at the mo-ments that we've shared

back at the mo-ments that we've shared

The heart-break, the strug-gles, the

The heart-break, the strug-gles, the

The heart-break, the strug-gles, the

The heart-break, the strug-gles, the

67

our me - mo - ries will stay The  
 hard - ship we fared Though we move on\_ our me - mo - ries will stay The  
 hard - ship we fared our me - mo - ries will stay The  
 hard - ship we fared Though we move on\_ our me - mo - ries will stay The

70

cou - rage you have taught me will be with me each day We've found our  
 cou - rage you have taught me will be with me each day We've found our  
 cou - rage you have taught me will be with me each day We've found our  
 cou - rage you have taught me will be with me each day We've found our

voi - ces and grew\_ them strong and with ev - ery good - bye we will sing this  
 voi - ces and grew\_ them strong and with ev - ery good - bye we will sing this  
 voi - ces and grew them strong and with ev - ery good - bye we will sing this  
 voi - ces and grew them strong and with ev - ery good - bye we will sing this

song Like an ea - gle\_ spread - ing its wings  
 song Like an ea - gle\_ sprea - ding its wings\_\_\_\_  
 song Like an ea - gle\_ spread - ing its wings  
 song Like an ea - gle\_ sprea - ding its wings\_\_\_\_

80

I am go - ing to fly I have climbed to new heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

I am go - ing to fly I have climbed to new heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

I am go - ing I am go - ing to fly to new heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

I am go - ing I am go - ing to fly to new heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

83

heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

heights and soared through the sky With cour - age and

strength I will jour-ney on— Cher-ish-ing each mo-ment though our time to-ge-ther is gone

strength I will jour-ney on— Cher-ish-ing each mo-ment though our time to-ge-ther is gone

strength I will jour-ney on— Cher-ish-ing each mo-ment though our time to-ge-ther is gone

strength I will jour-ney on— Cher-ish-ing each mo-ment though our time to-ge-ther is gone

Turn-ing the page— to an-oth-er chap-ter Thank-ing

Turn-ing the page— to an-oth-er chap-ter Thank-ing

Turn-ing the page— to an-oth-er chap-ter Thank-ing

Turn-ing the page— to an-oth-er chap-ter Thank-ing

92

I

friends, for the mem-or-ies and laugh-ter I will jour-ney on

friends, for the mem-or-ies and laugh-ter I will jour-ney on

friends, for the mem-or-ies and laugh-ter I will jour-ney

friends, for the mem-or-ies and laugh-ter I will jour-ney

95

I will jour-ney on

I will jour-ney on

I will jour-ney on

on I will jour-ney on I will jour-ney on

on I will jour-ney on I will jour-ney on

