CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS

SATB (divisi) choral, a cappella

An arrangement for intermediate unaccompanied mixed choirs of Taylor Swift's 'Champagne problems' from her 2020 album *Evermore*.

Dedicated to Tom, Matilda and Cassandra.

Item 2023-02 ISMN 9790900969934 Duration 4:50 min AU \$5.00 Words and music by Taylor Swift and William Bowery
Arranged by **KIRSTEN DUNCAN**





Champagne problems

This choral work by Kirsten Duncan is an arrangement of 'Champagne problems', a critically acclaimed single from Taylor Swift's 9th studio album *Evermore*, released in December 2020.¹

It is a melancholy ballad about a young woman who finds herself not ready for her lover's public marriage proposal. Swift describes the song as "the one where longtime college sweethearts had very different plans for the same night, one to end it and one who brought a ring." The jilted boyfriend nurses his hurt on the night train while his now ex-girlfriend is condemned by hometown skeptics although she wishes him love with someone new.

We know not to take it all too seriously – the breakup and reasons for it, although a shock, are "champagne problems", not ones affecting safety and survival.³

Why choose this arrangement? Unlike most versions, this arrangement is composed for intermediate to advanced mixed adult choirs (SATB divisi) without any instrumental accompaniment. Tenors and altos lead the gentle verses and choruses, shifting into densifying harmonic structure as the tale builds through the bridge to its dramatic peak, then gently resolves.

¹ Wikipedia, 'Champagne problems (Taylor Swift song), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champagne_Problems_ (Taylor_Swift_song)

² Swift, T, 2020, Twitter, https://twitter.com/taylorswift13/status/1337263259469164545/photo/2

³ Pearson, 2022, Champagne problems – meaning, origin and usage, https://english-grammar-lessons.com/ champagne-problems-meaning/

Champagne Problems

For mixed a cappella voices (SATB multi-divisi)







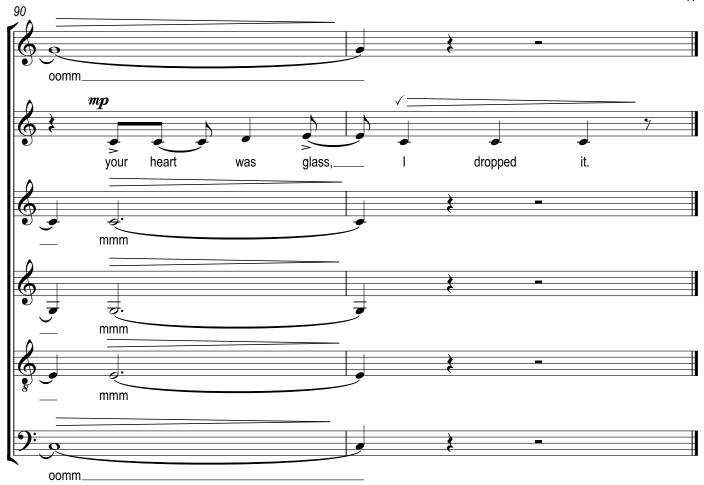












PREVIEW ONLY

Kirsten Duncan

Kirsten has had a lifelong passion for choral singing. Her first memorable event was a combined primary schools performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* at the Sydney Opera House where she also played in a recorder ensemble. As an early teen, she donned medieval costume for Judith Clingan's Canberra youth choir Gaudeamus's tour of New Zealand that included a spontaneous double-choir performance in a glowworm cave. With the Hamburg International School (ISH) choir Kirsten performed in Frankfurt, Vienna, London and Bonn and also sang in the auditioned semi-professional ensemble ISH Singers. Kirsten honed her sightsinging skills and sacred repertoire during three years of evensong and festival services with the choirs of Christ Church St Laurence, which, according to Geoffrey Moorhouse in *Sydney: the story of a city* (1999), 'may well be the finest choir in the entire Anglican Communion', under the direction of Dr Neil McEwan.

Returning to Canberra in 2002, Kirsten auditioned for The Resonants, directed by Helen Swan, after hearing the choir on ArtSound FM radio. She has now been singing with the award-winning group for two thirds of its 30+year history, including recording two albums and performing in dozens of the choir's own concerts plus collaborations with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, the Canberra International Music Festival, The Idea of North and others. She has been an active member of The Resonants committee and designer of the choir's promotional material for most of that time.

Kirsten feels privileged to now be writing choral music, contributing to the community that has been a stabilising thread through a life spanning many cities, military service, graphic design, climate activism and more. She dedicates it as a gift to every singer that she has entwined voices with, and particularly her husband and daughters who play Taylor's music incessantly!

Copyright © 2020 SONGS OF UNIVERSAL, INC., TASRM PUBLISHING and WILLIAM BOWERY MUSIC PUBLISHING. This arrangement Copyright © 2023 KIRSTEN DUNCAN. All rights reserved.

Visit kirstenduncan.com.au to notify about performances of this music, and find more creative works and information. Published by Shrub Creative, Australia, ABN 17266535698 A catalogue record for this work is available from the National Library of Australia.





