

Josh Rodriguez

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

SATB & Piano

Poetry by Gabriela Mistral

PRESUSAL SCORE

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

Abramos la dulce tierra
con amor, con mucho amor;
es éste un acto que encierra,
de misterios, el mayor.

Cantemos, mientras el tallo
toca el seno maternal.
Bautismo de luz da un rayo
al cono piramidal.

Le entregaremos ahora
a la buena Agua, y a vos,
noble Sol; a vos, señora
Tierra, y al buen Padre Dios.

El Señor le hará tan bueno
como un buen hombre o mejor;
en la tempestad, sereno,
y en toda hora, amparador.

Te dejo en pie. Ya eres mío,
y te juro protección,
contra el hacha, contra el frío,
y el insecto y el turbión.

A tu vida me consagro;
descansarás en mi amor.
¿Qué haré que valga el milagro
de tu fruto y de tu flor?

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957)

Plantando el árbol from *Desolación* (1922)
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PLANTING THE TREE (English translation)

Let us open the sweet earth
with love, with much love;
this is an act that holds,
of mysteries, the greatest.

Let us sing, while the stem
touches the maternal breast.
A ray of light baptizes
the pyramidal cone.

We will now give [the tree]
to the good Water, and to you,
noble Sun; to you, Lady
Earth, and to good Father God.

The Lord will make [the tree] as good
as a good man, or better;
in the storm, serene,
and at all times, a protector.

I leave you standing. You are mine,
and I swear to protect you,
against the axe, against the cold,
and the insect, and the whirlwind.

To your life, I consecrate myself;
you will rest in my love.
What shall I do that would be worthy of the miracle
of your fruit and your flower?

Trans. by Josh Rodriguez

Plantando el árbol (Planting a tree)

SATB + Piano

Duration: 3.5 mins

PROGRAM NOTES

Animated by the rhythmic lilt of the Colombian joropo dance, *Plantando el árbol* (Planting a tree) is the declaration of one who is aware of the multi-layered significance of caring for the forests - a love letter to a tree and to the sacrificial act of nurturing green growing things. Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral, distills a wide range of emotions into a simple vow to plant a tree and care for it - an urgent commitment in the face of consumerism and mass deforestation. Instead of a lament over the tragic loss of thousands of miles of forest and the biodiverse life dependent on trees, I chose to set this text as a defiant dance celebrating the commitment of each person who protects the green spaces in their neighborhood. I invite each person who sings this song or hears it in concert, plant a tree or donate to an organization involved in conservation efforts.

Premiered at SWACDA on March 5th, 2026, by the Marble Falls High School conducted by Bryce Gage.

Other versions:

SATB + Piano + Two percussion parts + Body Percussion parts performed by the choir

SSA + Piano

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Mistral's poem may present a challenge as there is a significant amount of text, so flexibility has been built into the music resulting in two versions. To lighten memorization, the second ("Cantemos...") and fifth ("Te dejo...") stanzas may be skipped without losing the essence of the poem (this text has been italicized). In this case, the first and fourth stanzas would simply be repeated. However, the complete poem can also be sung by including the italicized portions. Throughout *Plantando el árbol* there are cue-sized notes indicating optional divisi.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

Known for his energetic rhythms, rich harmonic language, and striking colors, award-winning composer Josh Rodriguez (b. 1982) continues to gain recognition as an emerging composer and collaborator on a national and international scale. Born in Argentina of Colombian American parentage, and raised in Guatemala, Mexico and the United States, Rodriguez's musical imagination has been formed by this bilingual, multi-cultural heritage. He collaborates regularly with theatre and film directors and has received notable concert commissions for a wide range of musical ensembles and genres. Rodriguez serves as Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Elmhurst University. His music is available on YouTube and streaming platforms (Bandcamp, Spotify, Apple, etc) and musical scores can be purchased through Walton Music, Murphy Music Press, JWPepper, and from his own website: www.joshrodriguezmusic.com

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

Gabriela Mistral

Josh Rodriguez

Con gozo y amor ♩ = 140 *mf*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano *mf*

A - bra - mos la du - ce tie - rra con a -
(Can) - te - mos mien - tras el ta - llo to - ca'el

PRESUSAL SCORE

7 (2x, cresc.)

S. - mor con mu - cho'a - more A - bra - mos la dul - ce tie - rra con a - mor con mu - cho'a -
se - no ma - ter - nal Can - te - mos mien - tras el ta - llo to - ca'el se - no ma - ter -

A.

T.

B.

Pno

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

12 **A**

S. *mf* - mor es es - te'un a - cto que en -
- nal *Baut* - - - - tis - mo de

A. A - bra - mos la du - ce tie - rra con a - mor con mu - cho'a - more A -
Can - te - mos mien - tras el ta - llo to - ca'el se - no ma - ter - nal Can -

T. *mf* es es - te'un a - cto
Bau - - - - tis - mo

B.

Pno

17 **B**

S. *f* - cie - rra de mis - te - rios, el ma - yor
luz al co - no pi - ra - mi - dal

A. *f* - bra - mos la dul - ce tie - rra con a - mor con mu - cho'a - mor te - - - rios
- te - mos mien - tras el ta - llo to - ca'el se - no ma - ter - nal un ra - yo

T. *f* *mf* que en - cie - rra mis - te - rios
de luz da un ra - yo

B. *mf* que en - cie - rra mis - te - rios
de luz da un ra - yo

Pno *f* *8ba.*

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

24

1. 2. C

S. (A) Can

A. *mf* Le'en-

T. *mf* Le'en - tre - ga - re - mos a -

B.

Pno *mf*

30 D *mf*

S. y a vos no - ble

A. - tre - ga - re - mos la bue - na a - gua y a vos no - ble

T. - ho - ra a la bue - na a - gua y a vos no - ble

B. *mf* y a vos no - ble

Pno *p* *mf*

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

E

S. Sol; a vos se - ño - ra Tie - - rra y'al

A. Sol; a vos se - ño - ra Tie - - rra a'y'al

T. Sol; a vos se - ño - ra Tie - - rra y'al

B. Sol; a vos se - ño - ra Tie - - rra y'al

Pno

PRESUSAL SCORE

S. buen Pa - dre Dios

A. buen Pa - dre Dios

T. buen Pa - dre Dios

B. buen Pa - dre Dios

Pno

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

49 **F** *fp*

S. *fp*
El Se - ñor le'ha - rá tan bue - no co - mo un buen hom - bre o me -
Te de - jo en pie. Ya e - res mí - o te ju - ro pro - tec -

A.
T.
B. *fp*
El Se - ñor le'ha - rá tan bue - no co - mo un buen hom - bre o me -
Te de - jo en pie. Ya e - res mí - o te ju - ro pro - tec -

Pno *p* *cresc.*
f

54 *<mf* *f*

S. *<mf* *f*
- jor en la tem - pes - tad se - re - no y'en to - da ho - ra am - pa - ra - dor____
- ción con - tra'el ha - cha____ con - tra el frí - o y el____ in - sec - - - to

A. *mf* *f*
en la tem - pes - tad se - re - no y'en to - da ho - ra am - pa - ra - dor
con - tra'el ha - cha____ con - tra____ el frí - o, y el____ in - sec - - - to

T. *mf* *f*
en la tem - pes - tad se - re - no y'en to - da ho - ra am - pa - ra - dor____
con - tra'el ha - cha____ con - tra el frí o y el____ in - sec - - - to

B. *<mf*
- jor
- ción

Pno *f*

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

60 **G**

S. *mf* en la tem - pes tad *f* se - - -
 con - tra'el ha - - cha con - tra'el in -

A. *mf* El Se - ñor le'ha - rá tan bue - no co - mo un buen hom - bre o me - jor en la
 Te de - jo en pie. Ya e - res mí - o te ju - ro pro - te - ción con - tra'el

T. *p* en la tem - pes - tad *mf*
 con tra'el ha - - cha

B. en la tem - pes - tad
 con tra'el ha - - cha

Pno *mf* *cresc.* *8ba.*

64 **H**

S. *f* - re - no y en to - - da ho - ra am - pa - - - ra - -
 - sec - to y el tur - - - - - bión. *mf*

A. *f* tem - pes - tad se - re - - no y'en to - da ho - ra am - pa - ra - dor am - pa - ra -
 ha - cha con - tra el frí - o y el in - se - - cto y'el tur - -

T. *f* se - re - - no am - - - pa - ra - - -
 con - tra'el in - se - - - cto y el tur - - -

B. *f* se - re - - no am - - - pa - ra - - -
 con - tra'el in - se - - - cto y el tur - - -

Pno *f* *mf* *8ba.*

(8)

*save divisi for repeat (second verse)

71

S. *ff* [1.] | 2. *mf* **I** *p*
- dor A tu

A. *ff* *p*
- dor A
- bión.

T. *ff*
- dor
- bión.

B. *ff*
- dor
- bión.

Pno *ff*
(8)

PRESUSAL SCORE

77

S. *f* **J** *f*
vi - da me con - sa - - gro; de - - -

A. *f* *f*
tu vi - da me con - sa - - gro; de - - -

T. *mp* *f* *f*
A tu vi - da me con - sa - - gro; de - - -

B. *mf* *f*
me con - sa - - gro;

Pno *p* *mf* *f*

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

85

S. - scan - sa - rás _____ en mi a - mor _____

A. - scan - sa - rás _____ en mi a - mor _____

T. - scan - sa - rás _____ en _____ mi a - mor _____

B. _____

Pno

K

92 *mf* _____ *p* _____

S. ¿Qué ha - ré _____ que val - - ga _____ el mi - la - - - - - - - - - - - gro

A. ¿Qué ha - ré _____ que val - - ga _____ el mi - la - - - - - - - - - - - gro

T. ¿Qué ha - ré _____ que val - - ga _____ el mi - la - - - - - - - - - - - gro

B. ¿Qué ha - ré _____ que val - - ga _____ el mi - la - - - - - - - - - - - gro

Pno *mf*

99 *f* **L**

S. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f* *mf* de tu

B. *f* *mf* de tu fru - - to y de tu flor de tu

Pno *f* *mf*

105 **M** *mf*

S. *mf* de tu fru - - to

A. *mf* de tu fru - - to

T. fru - - to tu flor de tu fru - - to

B. fru - - to y de tu flor

Pno

PLANTANDO EL ÁRBOL

N

110

S. *fp* *f*
tu flor

A. *fp* *f*
tu flor flor

T. *fp* *f*
y de tu flor

B.

Pno

8^{ba}

O

115

S. *fp* *fff*
fru - to de tu flor?

A. *fp* *fff*
fru - to de tu flor?

T. *fp* *fff*
fru - to de tu flor?

B. *fp* *fff*
fru - to de tu flor?

Pno *fff*

4