

Sarah Riskind

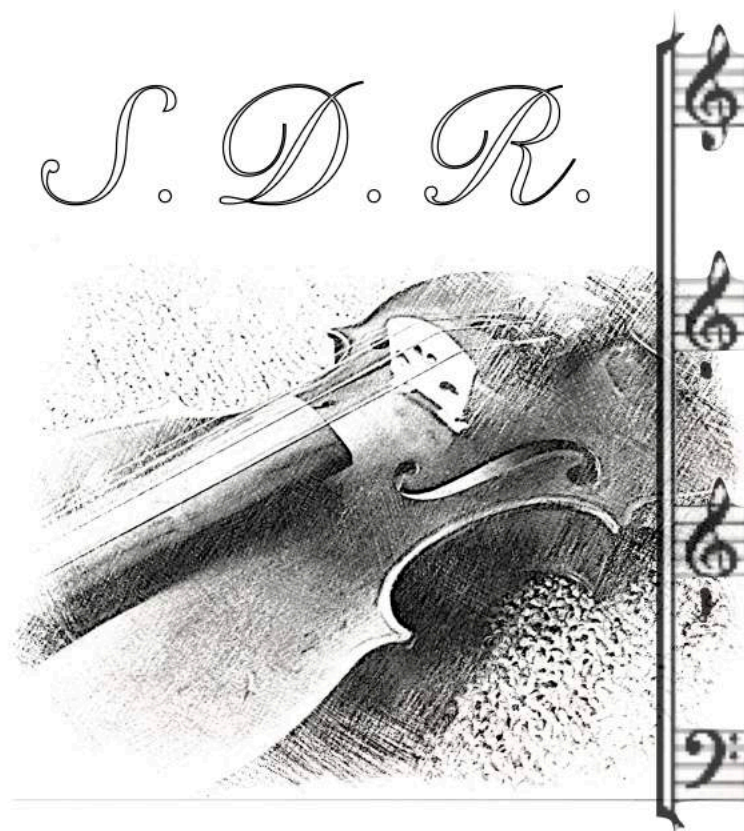
*For the DigiPen Dragon Chorus, directed by Stephen O'Bent*

# Other Commencement

*for TrTBarB chorus and piano*

2021

Duration: 4'40"



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



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*for TrTBarB chorus and piano*

Duration: 4'40"

### Performance Notes:

In the text of *Other Commencement*, DigiPen student Ariel Kim reflects on the countless hardships that graduates have endured during the Covid-19 pandemic. Alongside this sincere acknowledgement of struggles, though, is a hopeful message about recognizing their hard-won accomplishments; their strength will carry them into the next chapters of their lives.

In the musical setting, I have illustrated the roughly palindromic structure of the text. The opening sections return at the end of the piece, but they have been changed by the intervening material.

Stylistically, I would recommend leaning into the folk music influence. It is important to highlight the natural text stress and let the poetry be heard.

– Sarah Riskind

Previously based in Seattle and Boston, conductor and composer **Sarah Riskind** (b.1987) is the Director of Choral Activities at Eureka College in central Illinois, Music Director of the Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana, and a faculty member at The Walden School. Riskind's compositions are featured in the Project Encore catalogue of contemporary choral music and available at [www.sarahriskind.com](http://www.sarahriskind.com) as well as Swirly Music. Among her works are Jewish and Judeo-Christian music, secular pieces with improvisatory elements, and choral settings with string obbligato parts. She holds degrees from the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Williams College.

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## Other Commencement

The end of this chapter has arrived  
The start of this chapter has begun  
Through all the years we spent together  
Losing and growing connections

We know that  
We've learned  
We've grown  
We've made it

Smarter, Older, Ready to take on the world  
As long as we grow as we did  
Life will continue to open new gateways

With life and these paths  
Like we did in these past years  
Growing, fighting, hurting  
Living our passions in the best way  
Learning our passions in the best way

Nothing will tell us we can't move on  
Hardships thrown at us will never be gone  
But, even with hardship thrown at us, we will always move on

We know that  
We've learned  
We've grown  
We've made it

Losing and growing connections  
Through all the years we spent together  
The start of this chapter has begun  
The end of this chapter has arrived.

– Ariel Kim, 2021

# Other Commencement

for TrTBarB chorus and piano

Ariel Kim

Sarah Riskind (b. 1987)

**Reflectively**

♩ = 66-72

solo *mp*

Treble

Tenor

Baritone

Bass

The end \_\_\_\_\_ of this

**Reflectively**

♩ = 66-72

*p*

with pedal

Piano

6

tutti *mp*

Tr.

T.

Bar.

B.

Pno.

chap-ter has ar - rived

The start of this chap-ter has\_\_\_ be-gun Through all the

The start of this chap-ter has\_\_\_ be-gun Through all the

Through all the

Through all the

Through all the

10

Tr. *f*  
years we spent to - ge - - - ther

T. *f*  
years to - ge - - - ther

Bar. *f*  
years to - ge - - - ther

B. *f*  
years to ge - the

Pno. *f*

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

13

Tr. *mf*  
Lo-sing and gro-wing con-nec tions\_\_

T. *mf*  
Lo-sing and gro-wing con-nec tions\_\_

Bar. *mf*  
Lo-sing and gro-wing con-nec tions\_\_

B. *mf*  
Lo-sing and gro-wing con-nec tions\_\_

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

17 A

Tr. *mf* we've grown, we've

T. *mf* We know that we've learned we've grown, we've

Bar. *mf* We know that we've learned

B. *mf* we've grown, we've

**SAMPLE SCORE** A

Pno. *mf*

**DO NOT COPY**

21 *mf*

Tr. made it We know that we've learned, we've grown, we've

T. made it We know that we've learned, we've grown, we've

Bar. *mf* Through all the years.

B. *mf* made it Through all the years.

Pno.

23

Tr. *f* made it Smar - ter, ol - der,

T. *f* made it Smar - ter, ol - der, *mf* Rea-dy to take on the

Bar. Through all the years, ol - der

B. *f* Through all the years, ol - der

Pno. *f* *mf*

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

27 *f* *poco rit.* **B** With Motion ♩=86

Tr. Rea-dy to take on the world.

T. world, take on the world

Bar. *mf* Rea-dy to take on the world

B. *mf* Rea-dy to take on the world *poco rit.* **B** With Motion ♩=86

Pno. *f*



30 *mf*

Tr. ooh

T. *mf* ooh

Bar. *mf* ooh ooh

B. *mf* ooh ooh

Pno. *mf*

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

33 *mp*

Tr. As long as we

T. *mp* As long as we

Bar. ooh

B. ooh

Pno. *mp*

rit. . . . .

36

Tr. grow life will con-tin-ue

T. grow as we did life will con-tin-ue to o-pen new gate-ways

Bar. ooh to o-pen new gate-ways

B. ooh to o-pen new gate-ways

*mp* *p* *p* *p*

39

Tempo I =66-72

Pno. *p* *mp*

39

Tempo I =66-72

Tr.

T.

Bar.

B.

Pno. *mf*

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

43

Tr.

T.

Bar. solo *mf*

B.

With

Pno.

**SAMPLE SCORE**

**DO NOT COPY**

47

Tr.

T.

Bar. life\_\_\_\_\_and these paths\_ like we did in these past years Grow - ing\_ Figh - ting

B.

Pno.

52

Tr. *p* *pp* *f* rit. . . .

Hur - ting in the best way

T. *p* *pp* *mf* *ff* 3

Hur - ting Lear ning our pass-ions in the best way

Bar. *mf* *ff* 3

Li - ving our pass-ions in the best way

B. *f* in the best way rit. . . .

Pno. *mp* *f*

56

Tr. *f* tutti

No - thing will tell us we can-not move on Hard-ships thrown at us will

T. *f* tutti

No - thing will tell us we can-not move on Hard-ships thrown at us will

Bar. *f* tutti

No - thing will tell us we can-not move on Hard-ships thrown at us will

B. *f* tutti

No - thing will tell us we can-not move on Hard-ships thrown at us will

**Tempo**

**A Tempo**

Pno. (h) (h)

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

59

Tr. ne-ver be gone but e-ven with hard - ship thrown at us

T. ne-ver be gone but e-ven with hard - ship thrown at us

Bar. ne-ver be gone but e-ven with hard - ship thrown at us We will

B. ne-ver be gone but e-ven with hard - ship thrown at us We will al-ways move on

Pno.

62

Tr. We will al - ways move *ah*\_\_\_\_\_

T. We will al - ways move on\_\_\_\_\_ We

Bar. al - ways move on\_\_\_\_\_ We

B. We

Pno.

**SAMPLE SCORE**

**DO NOT COPY**

F

64 *f*

Tr. *f* We

T. *f* know that we've learned we've grown, we've made it We

Bar. know that we've learned we've grown, we've made it Through all the

B. know that we've learned we've grown, we've made it Through all the

Pno.

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

67

T. know that we've learned, we've grown, we've made it

T. know that we've learned, we've grown, we've made it

Bar. *solo mf* years We

B. years

Pno.

69

Tr. *solo mf* Through all the years

T. *solo mf* we've grown, we've made it \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. know that we've learned\_

B.

Pno.

71

Tr. *solo mp* The

T. *solo mp* The

Bar. *solo mp* Through all the years\_\_\_\_\_ we spent to -

B. *solo mf* Lo-sing and gro-wing con-nec-tions\_

Pno. *mp*

Slowly

♩=60

tutti  
*p*

74

Tr. start of this chap-ter has be-gun The

T. start of this chap-ter has be-gun The

Bar. ge - ther\_ The

B. The

Pno. *p*

SAMPLE SCORE

DO NOT COPY

78

Tr. end of this chap-ter has ar - rived rit.

T. end of this chap-ter has ar - rived

Bar. end of this chap-ter has ar - rived

B. end of this chap-ter has ar - rived

Pno. *p*