

# FALLING LEAVES



**For a cappella SATB chorus**

music by Juhi Bansal, text translated from Rumi

Duration 4 minutes



## **Program note:**

In the simplest of words, the Persian poet Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī expresses joy in the natural world. It is a message of peace and gratitude, of finding light and meaning in unexpected places. With cascading lines, intertwining counterpoint and modal inflections, the music paints a picture of drifting leaves and wonder.

*To David V. Montoya, in gratitude and friendship*

## **Falling Leaves**

The leaf of every tree  
brings message from the unseen world.  
Look,  
every falling leaf is a blessing.

translation adapted from Reynold Nicholson, in the public domain

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# Falling Leaves

**Expressive, flowing**  
♩ = 50-60

**5**

SOPRANO *p*  
The leaf of ev - ry tree

ALTO *p*  
The leaf of ev - ry tree

TENOR *p*  
brings mes - sage, brings

BASS *p*  
brings

(for rehearsal only)

Piano *p*

**6**

SOPRANO *pp* *p* **9**  
The leaf of ev - ry

ALTO *pp* *p*  
The leaf of eve - ry

TENOR  
mes - sage, bring mes - sage, brings mes - sage, the leaf

BASS  
brings mes - sage, the leaf

Piano

11

SOPRANO *pp*  
tree

ALTO *pp*  
tree,

TENOR  
brings brings mes - sage, brings mes - sage, brings mes - sage, brings

BASS  
brings, brings mes - sage,

Piano



16

17

SOPRANO *p*  
The leaf of eve - ry tree, the

ALTO *p*  
The leaf of eve - ry tree, the

TENOR  
mes - sage the leaf brings the

BASS  
the leaf

Piano

21 21 25

SOPRANO  
leaf of eve - ry tree, the leaf of eve - ry

ALTO  
leaf of eve - ry tree, the leaf of eve - ry

TENOR  
leaf of eve - ry tree brings mes - sage, brings mes - sage, brings

BASS  
brings, brings

Piano

27 29

SOPRANO *mp*  
tree, the leaf of eve - ry tree,

ALTO *mp*  
tree, the leaf of eve - ry tree,

TENOR *mp*  
mes - sage, brings mes - sage, the leaf brings, brings

BASS *mp*  
mes - sage the

Piano *mp*

(staggered breathing)

32 33 35 5

**SOPRANO**  
the leaf brings mes - sage

**ALTO**  
the leaf brings mes - sage

**TENOR**  
mes - sage the leaf mes - sage,

**BASS**  
leaf, the leaf mes - sage,

**Piano**  
*p subito*

37 38 40 *mf*

**SOPRANO**  
*poco a poco cresc.*  
*mp cresc.* world *mf*

**ALTO**  
*p poco a poco cresc.* from the un - seen world *mp cresc.* world *mf*

**TENOR**  
*p poco a poco cresc.* un - seen world *mf*

**BASS**  
*p poco a poco cresc.* un - seen world *mf*

**Piano**  
*poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

Sop. 2 *mp cresc.* world *mf*

Alto 2 *mp cresc.* world *mf*

43

47

43 *mp poco a poco cresc.*

SOPRANO  
Look, \_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_

ALTO  
Look, \_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_

TENOR  
*mp poco a poco cresc.*  
Look \_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_

BASS  
*mp poco a poco cresc.*  
Look, \_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_

Piano  
*mp poco a poco cresc.*



51

49

SOPRANO  
\_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_ *f* *mp*  
Eve - ry

ALTO  
\_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_ *f*

TENOR  
\_\_\_\_\_ look \_\_\_\_\_ *f* *mp*  
Eve - ry

BASS  
\_\_\_\_\_ look, \_\_\_\_\_ *f*

Piano  
*f* *mp*  
*mp*

59

55

SOPRANO

fall - ing leaf \_\_\_\_\_ eve - ry } fall - - ing

Sop. 2

fall - ing

ALTO

Eve - ry fall - ing leaf, \_\_\_\_\_ eve - ry

(In the background)

*mp* (always *mp*)

TENOR

fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall -

(In the background)

*pp*

fall

BASS

Piano

*pp* *mp* *pp*

61

SOPRANO

leaf, eve - ry fall - - ing leaf, eve - ry

ALTO

leaf, eve - ry fall - ing leaf, eve - ry fall - ing

TENOR

ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall -

BASS

Piano

fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall -

67 **67** 71 9

**SOPRANO**  
fall - - ing leaf, *cresc.* eve - ry fall - ing,

**ALTO**  
fall - ing  
leaf, eve - ry fall - ing, *cresc.* fall - - *mp cresc.*

**TENOR**  
ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing fall -

**BASS**  
*mp cresc.*  
fall - ing,

**Piano**  
*cresc.*

**75** *rit.* **78** *Slightly faster, in time*

**SOPRANO**  
73 fall - ing, *f* fall - ing *p subito* leaf

**ALTO**  
*f* ing fall - ing *p subito* leaf

**TENOR**  
- - ing, *f* fall - ing *p subito* leaf *pp* is a

**BASS**  
fall - ing, *f* fall - ing *p subito* leaf *pp* is a

**Piano**  
*f* *pp*



