

by Kelvyn Koning



W.I.T.C.H.

Woman in Total
Control of Herself

for Treble Choir

W.I.T.C.H.

About the piece:

I wrote W.I.T.C.H. in July 2023 for Lilith Vocal Ensemble's October 2023 concert, directed by Laura Nevitt. There are numerous depictions of witches across many cultures, but I thought Madeline Miller captured the universal spirit of witches in an interview about her best-selling book *Circe* where she said, "[witches] all have one thing in common: they are women with more power than other people - men especially - think they should have." While I normally strive for gender-inclusive language in my text, I must admit that I loved learning that an acronym for witch is "Woman In Total Control of Herself." While not everyone that sings this piece may identify as a woman, I hope this piece will still be empowering for all of us and a chance to acknowledge we can all have agency over our bodies, lives, and choices. That being said, alternate text has been written in the score for those that don't feel comfortable singing with she/her pronouns. The director can decide on a solution that best serves the needs of the group based on the text supplied.

Text:

Woman In Total Control of Herself
Can't nobody put me on a shelf
'Cause you are afraid of my power
And you are afraid of my love
'Cause I am not your flower
And I am not your dove
I'm a thistle in the moonlight
I'm the briar on a rose
I'm a whisper close to midnight
I'm a fire that only grows
I do not smile for you
I do not dress for you
I do not give myself
Unless I've chosen to
My life is mine to make
My choice is mine to take
And I will not be quiet
When my life's at stake

for Lilith Vocal Ensemble

W.I.T.C.H.

(Woman In Total Control of Herself)

Kelvyn Koning (b. 1994)

Supernaturally powerful ♩ = 100

S1

S2 *mp*
To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

S3 *mp*
To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

A1 *mp*
To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

A2 *mp*
To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

4

S1

S2 *mp*
To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In

S3 *mp*
To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In

A1 *mp*
To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In

A2 *mp*
To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In To tal Con-trol, I'm In

7 *mf*

S1
Wo-man In To-tal Con-trol of Her-self,___ Can't no - bo-dy put me
Per-son Them-self,___

S2
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

S3
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

A1
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

A2
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In To-tal Con-trol, I'm In

10 *mp*

S1
on a___ shelf,___ My pow - er, I'm in

S2
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In pow - er, I'm in

S3
mf
To - tal Con-trol, I'm 'Cause you___ are a-fraid of my pow - er, And you

A1
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In pow - er, I'm in

A2
To - tal Con-trol, I'm In pow - er, I'm in

12 *sim.*

S1 love, I'm not your flo - wer or your

S2 love, I'm not your flo - wer or your

S3 — are a-fraid of my love, 'Cause I — am not your flow - er, And I —

A1 *sim.* love, I'm not your flo - wer or your

A2 *sim.* love, I'm not your flo - wer or your

14

S1 *p* dove, I am a ooh, wa

S2 *p* dove, I am a ooh, wa

S3 *p* — am not your dove, — ooh, wa

A1 *mf* dove, I am I'm a this - tle in the moon - light, I'm the

A2 *p* dove, I am a ooh, wa

16

S1
ooh, wa ooh, wa ooh, that

S2
ooh, wa ooh, wa ooh, that

S3
ooh, wa ooh, wa ooh, that

A1
bri-ar on a rose, I'm a whis per close to mid night, I'm a fire that on-ly grows,

A2
ooh, wa ooh, wa ooh, grows,

19

S1
grows, — ooh, — *sub. mp*

S2
grows, — ooh, — *sub. mp*

S3
grows, — ooh, — *sub. mp*

A1
ooh, — *sub. mp*

A2
mf
'Cause I'm a Wo-man In To tal Con-trol of Her - self,
Per-son Them- self,

23

S1
ooh, _____ ooh, wa

S2
ooh, _____ ooh, wa

S3
ooh, _____ *mf* 'Cause you are a-fraid of my pow-er, And you

A1
ooh, _____ ooh, wa

A2
Can't no-bo-dy put me on a shelf, _____ *mp* ooh, wa

26

S1
ooh, wa ooh, wa

S2
ooh, wa ooh, wa

S3
_____ are a-fraid of my love, 'Cause I _____ am not your flow - er, And I _____

A1
ooh, wa ooh, wa

A2
ooh, wa ooh, wa

28

S1 *mf*
ooh, da da da da da da

S2 *mf*
ooh, da da da da da da

S3
— am not your dove,— da da da da da da

A1 *f*
ooh, I'm a this-tle in the moon - light, I'm the

A2 *mf*
ooh, da da this-tle, the moon-light, the

30

S1
— da da da da da da da da da da

S2
— da da da da da da da da da da

S3
— da da da da da da da da da da

A1
bri - ar on a rose, I'm a whis-per close to mid - night, I'm a

A2
bri - er, the rose, whis-per at mid-night, a

32

fp *sub. p*

S1
fire that on-ly grows, ooh,

S2
fire that on-ly grows, ooh,

S3
fire that on-ly grows, ooh, I do not

A1
fire that on-ly grows, I do not smile for you,

A2
fire that on-ly grows, ooh,

36

p *mp* *p*

S1
ooh,

S2
ooh, My life is

S3
dress for you, ooh, ooh,

A1
ooh,

A2
I do not give my- self un-less I've cho-sen to, ooh,

39

S1 *mp*
My choice is mine to take, And I will not be qui - et when my

S2 *p* *mp*
mine to make, ooh, And I will not be qui - et when my

S3 *mp*
And I will not be qui - et when my

A1 *mp*
ooh, And I will not be qui - et when my

A2 *mp*
And I will not be qui - et when my

42

S1 *mf*
life's at stake, da da da da da da da

S2 *mf*
life's at stake, da da da da da da da

S3 *mf* *f* *mf*
life's at stake, da da I do not dress for you, da

A1 *f* *mf*
life's at stake, I do not smile for you, da da da da

A2 *mf* *f*
life's at stake, da da da da da da I do not

45

S1
da da da da da da da da My choice is *f*

S2
da da da da da da My life is mine to make, *mf* da

S3
da da da da da da da da da da da

A1
da da da da da da da da da da da

A2
give my self_ un-less I've cho-sen to, *mf* da da da da da

48

S1
mine to take, *f* And I will not be qui - et when my life's *fp*

S2
da da And I will not be qui - et when my life's at stake, *fp*

S3
da da And I will not be qui - et when my life's at stake, *fp*

A1
da da And I will not be qui - et when my life's at stake, *fp*

A2
da da And I will not be qui - et when my life's at stake, *fp*

51

stem up = clap
stem down = stomp

Clap
Stomp

ff burn-ing at the stake, — *f* H *ff* Wo-man In To-tal Con Per-son

f C *ff* To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

f T *ff* To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

f I *ff* To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

f 'Cause I'm a W *ff* To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

54

Clap
Stomp

S1 trol of Her- self, — Can't no - bo - dy put me
Them self, —

S2 To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

S3 To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

A1 To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To - tal Con-trol, I'm In

A2 To - tal Con-trol, I'm In To - tal Con-trol, I'm In