

Susanna Payne-Passmore

**DIDI MTEBI**

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დიდი მთები

*for three voices*

(2013)

Duration: 3 minutes

# Program Note

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“Didi Mtebi”, (“დიდი მთები” in Georgian, “The Great Mountains” in English) is a song for three voices in the style of Georgian vocal polyphony ([link to wiki](#)). I composed it at the end of my time teaching and studying in the Republic of Georgia on a Fulbright. This period of my life was my first time living abroad and I struggled with homesickness. Eventually, as I grew closer to the people around me, their warmth and kindness rekindled my spirits, and I found it easier to take joy from the wonders around me. Throughout, the Caucasus mountains were never far from view. I watched them each morning as I walked to the village school and their mutability reassured me.

Although the existing repertoire in the style of this piece is sung only by men, I decided to write this piece in a slightly higher range so that the genders of the singers could be more flexible. The middle part may be sung by an alto or tenor voice and the top voice may be sung by alto or soprano.

## Text

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Didi mtebi adis maghla, maghla tsamde

da chadis dabla absqulamde.

Amodis da chadis rogorts tkivili shors  
tsxovrebis.

Minda gadavlaxo mtebits  
zghvebits shentan.

Magram atiatasi nabiji  
ver mo miqvars shentan.

Dasatsqisshi qoveli dghe tsivdeboda.

Me haeris gatboba sitqvebit.

Axla aris sinatle, sitbo, sitsidit.

Tsota shuki shemodis shoreuli karidan.

Vitsi rom ghiaa me ar unda gavide.

The great mountains soar up, up into  
the sky.

and fall down into the abyss.

They rise and fall just like the pain of  
distance.

I long to go over mountains  
and across the seas to you,

But even ten thousand footsteps  
would not bring me to your side.

At first, every day grew colder.

I could not warm the air with words.

But now there is laughter, warmth,  
and light.

A little light comes through the door.  
Yet I know I can't go through.

# Didi Mtebi

Lyrics and Music: Susanna Payne-Passmore

Score and parts available on request. Score and parts available on request.

Voice 1  
Di-di mte-bi a - dis ma-ghla, ma ghla tsa- mde. Da-cha - dis da - bla u - bsqru li u bsqru - la -

Voice 2  
Di-di mte-bi a - dis ma-ghla, ma ghla tsa- mde. Da-cha - dis da-bla u - bsqru - li, u bsqru - la -

Voice 3  
Di-di mte-bi a - dis ma-ghla, ma ghla tsa- mde. Da-cha - dis da-bla u - bsqru-li u - bsqru - la -

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mde. A - mo-dis da cha- dis ro-gorts tki - vi - li shors tsxo - vre - bis.

mde. A - mo-dis da cha- dis ro-gorst tki - vi - li shors tsxo - vre - bis.

mde. A - mo-dis da cha- dis ro - gorts tki - vi - li shors tsxo - vre - bis.

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Mi-nda ga - da - vla - xo mte-bits zghve - bits shen - tan. Ma - gram a - ti - a - ta - si na - bi - ji ver mo - miq - vans,

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ver mo-mi- qvans shen - tan. Da-sa-tsqi-sshi qo-ve - li dghe tsi-vde-bo-da. Me hae - ris ga - tbo - ba

ver mo-mi- qvans shen - tan. Da-sa-tsqi-sshi qo-ve - li dghe tsi-vde-bo-da. Me ha-e-ris ga - tbo - ba

ver mo-mi - qvans shen - tan. Da-sa-tsqi-sshi qo-ve - li dghe tsi-vde-bo-da. Me hae ris-ga - tbo - ba

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si - tqve - bit ver - shev - dze - li. A - xla a - ris si - na - tle, si - tbo, si - tsi - lit.

si - tqve - bit ver - shev - dze - li. A - xla a - ris si - na - tle, si - tbo, si - tsi - lit.

si - tqve-bit ver - shev - dze - li. A - xla a - ris si - na - tle, si - tbo, si - tsi - lit.

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Tso-ta shu-ki she-mo - dis sho-re-u - li ka - ri - dan. Vi - tsi rom ghi - aa me ar u-nda ga-vi - de.

Tso-ta shu-ki she-mo - dis sho-re-u - li ka - ri - dan. Vi - tsi rom ghiaa me ar u-nda ga-vi - de.

Tso-ta shu-ki she-mo - dis sho-re-u - li ka - ri - dan. Vi - tsi rom ghi-a - a me ar u-nda ga-vi - de.