

I Saw It First in Her

for CSL Men's Choir

Mother's Day 2006

Ballad

$\text{♩} = 68$

Erin McGaughan

INTRO

A

unison *mp* The ten - der strength to hold a new - born babe,
The moth - er's milk to make it grow,
The fierce at - ten - tion to keep it safe,
And the bound - less love to let it go, I saw it first in

B

her, I saw it first in
her, I saw it first in
her, Ho - ly Moth - er, Sweet Di - vine! I saw it first in

B Am

me! And all the things I thought were hers a - lone,

me! And all the things I thought were hers a - lone,

D G G/F#

the sec - ret wis - dom of her kind

the sec - ret wis - dom of her kind

Em Am

She was long - ing to share with me,

She was long - ing to share with me,

D Em *f*

A - noth - er face of our Di - vine! *f* And all the things I thought a

A - noth - er face of our Di - vine! *f* And all the things I thought a

Am D

man should be were on - ly seeds of some - thing *decresc.*

man should be were on - ly seeds of some - thing *decresc.*

Em D C

more, *decresc.* And when I

more, some - thing vast and un - lim - i - ted, And when I

more *decresc.* And when I

D

o - pened, *rit.* *p* Love was

o - pened, *rit.* *p* Love was

o - pened, Love was

tempo 1 E

born. *inst. fills as beginning*

born.

F A B B E/B F#m/A

her, I saw it first in

her, I saw it first in

G#m C#m C#m B

her, *rit.* I saw it first in

her, Ho - ly Moth - er, Sweet Di - vine *rit.* I saw it first in

F#m B

God, and now it lives in

God, and now it lives in

decresc.

decresc.

E(add2) E(add2)

unison p me.

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featured instr part - English horn in F

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Ballad

The musical score is written for English horn in F major and common time. It consists of the following sections:

- A Verse 1:** Starts with a 3-measure rest, followed by a melodic line. A 16-measure rest follows.
- B Chorus 1:** A 5-measure rest.
- C Verse 2:** Starts with a 3-measure rest, followed by a melodic line.
- D Chorus 2:** A melodic line with a repeat sign at the beginning.
- Bridge:** Starts with a 6-measure rest, followed by a melodic line. A 2-measure rest follows.

The score concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking over a melodic line.

In the choral score the first four measures are repeated.
In this part the repeat is written out, because the second time is different.

I Saw It First in Her

By Erin McGaughan
for Men's Choir, Center for Spiritual Living, Seattle
Mother's Day 2006

VERSE

The tender strength to hold a
 new-born babe,
The mother's milk to make it grow,
The fierce attention to keep it safe,
And the boundless love to let it go,

CHORUS

I saw it first in her,
 I saw it first in her,
I saw it first in her,
 Holy Mother, Sweet Divine!
I saw it first in her, and now it lives
 in me.

VERSE

The softer music of a summer sky,
The cool seduction like a flower,
The raw compassion
 and the need to cry,
The ebb and flow of nature's power,

CHORUS

I saw it first in her,
I saw it first in her,
 and now it lives in me.

BRIDGE

And all the things
 I thought were hers alone,
The secret wisdom of her kind
She was longing to share with me,
Another face of our Divine!

And all the things

 I thought a man should be
Were only seeds
 of something more,
Something vast and unlimited,
And when I opened, Love was born.

VERSE

Now is the gratitude I feel today
More of woman or of man?
For there is
 strength and tenderness
In my heart and in my hand.

CHORUS

I saw it first in her,
 I saw it first in her,
I saw it first in her,
 Holy Mother, Sweet Divine!
I saw it first in her,
 and now it lives in me.