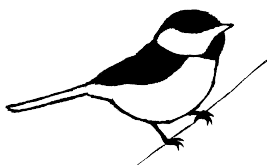


SONGS FROM THE AVIARY

song set for soprano & piano

[2019, rev. 2022]



*WINNER: Oscar Bookbinder Composition Competition
and commissioned by Clarisse Annette Tonigussi*

text by

A.E. WETHERALD

music by

E.K.R. HAMMELL

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PROGRAM NOTE

Commissioned by Clarisse Annette Tonigussi for a 2019 premiere in Toronto, *Songs from the Aviary* is a song set comprised of several brief, yet distinct musical images of birds depicted in the poetry of Canadian writer, A.E. Wetherald (1857-1940).

Wetherald's poems evoke miniature scenes in which intense feelings suddenly arise from a brief shared moment she may have had with a particular feathered creature. Together, I imagine that these moments construct an aviary within the mind of the narrator (the singer), where the memories and feelings of these birds linger long afterward.

Revised in late 2022, this edition was premiered by Kathryn Rose Johnston (soprano) and Christian Umipig (piano) as the finale to the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph Gala, on February 11th 2023 in Guelph ON, in celebration of the piece's winning of the inaugural Oscar Bookbinder Composition Competition.

PRINTING

Vocal Scores published by E.K.R. Hammell Music are optimized for 8.5x11 printing. See ekrhammell.com for full details on the best printing practices for your score.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

E.K.R. Hammell (Evan, he/him/his) is a Canadian composer & arranger. Winner of two national composition awards in Canada (the *Lloyd Carr-Harris Prize*, and the *Oscar Bookbinder Prize*), and a Finalist in the *International Young Talented Composers Competition*, Evan's music includes over a dozen commissioned original works and arrangements, and has been heard across four countries (Canada, USA, UK, & Spain). Originally from Prince Edward Island, Evan is currently based in Toronto. Aside from devising pretentiously abbreviated stage names, his other talents mainly involve playing bass trombone, choral singing, and being impressively bad at eye contact. (b. 1993)



E.K.R. HAMMELL
music
ekrhammell.com

music by
E.K.R. HAMMELL

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ii. the first bluebird

*First, first!
That was thy song that burst
Out of the spring of thy heart,
Incarnate spring that thou art!
Now must the winter depart,
Since to his age-heavy ear
Fluteth the youth of the year.*

*Low, low;
Delicate, musical, slow;
[Lighten, O heaven that lowers,
Blossom, ye fields, into flowers,
Thicken, ye branches, to bowers;]
And thou, O my heart, like a stone,
Wilt thou keep winter alone?*

text by
A.E. WETHERALD

music by
E.K.R. HAMMELL

**Innocently, steadily &
with very little rubato** ♩ = 80

Piano

con ped. (pedalling suggested by slurs)

The piano introduction is written for a grand piano in 2/2 time. It begins with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The right hand features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand plays sustained chords. A large slur covers the entire introduction, with a note indicating 'con ped. (pedalling suggested by slurs)'.

A *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

First, first That was thy song that burst out of the spring of thy heart,

The vocal melody begins at measure 7, marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. It starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to mezzo-forte (mf), then returns to mp, and finally to mf again. The lyrics are: 'First, first That was thy song that burst out of the spring of thy heart,'. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords in the left hand, with a piano (p) dynamic indicated at measure 8.

14 *mp* 3

In - car-nate spring that thou art!

22 **B** *mf* *mp*

Now must the win - ter de - part, Since to his

30 *f* 3 3 *loco* *mp* *mf*

age-hea-vy ear Flu-teth the youth of the year.

37 **C** *mf* *p* *pp*

Low, low De - li-cate, mu-si cal and

44 *f* *mp*

slow, and thou, O my heart, like a stone,

49 *mf* *p* *mf* *attacca*

Wilt thou keep win - ter a - lone?

iii. the hummingbird

*Against my window-pane
He plunges at a mass
Of buds -- and strikes in vain
The intervening glass.*

*O sprite of wings and fire
Outstretching eagerly,
My soul, with like desire
To probe thy mystery*

*Comes close as breast to bloom,
As bud to hot heart-beat,
And gains no inner room,
And drains no hidden sweet.*

text by
A.E. WETHERALD

music by
E.K.R. HAMMELL

Urgently ♩ = ca. 160

VOCAL

Piano

f mp *f mp* *ff*

loco

mf

A -

8va

(2+2+3)

5

A

Against my_ win-dow pane He_ plung-es at a mass of buds and strikes in

mf *ff*

11 *f*

vain the in-ter-ve-ning glass.—

mp *mf accel.*

B Jittery, bursting with energy,
but not heavy (feel in 1)

$\text{♩} = 63$

16 *f*

O sprite _____ of _____ wings _____ and fire _____ out -

f *mf sin*

22

stretch-ing ea-ger-ly _____ my _____ soul _____ with like _____ de - sire to

(8)

28 *mp* *f*

probe_ thy mys - te - ry _____ comes close_ as breast _____ to bloom, -

mp *f* *loco*

35

ff

as___ bud___ to hot heart - beat

ff

rit.

39

mf **C** tempo primo

and___ gains___ no___ in - ner room and___

43

drains no___ hid-den sweet

ff

iv.

the screech owl

Hearing the strange night-piercing sound
Of woe that strove to sing,
I followed where it hid, and found
A small soft-throated thing,
A feathered handful of gray grief,
Perched by the year's last leaf.

And heeding not that in the sky
The lamps of peace were lit,
It sent abroad that sobbing cry,
And sad hearts echoed it.
Oh hush, poor grief, so gray, so wild,
God still is with His child!

text by

A.E. WETHERALD

music by

E.K.R. HAMMELL

Melancholic, freely ♩ = ca. 66

VOCAL

Piano

mp

p

con ped.

Hear-ing that strange

poco più mosso

7

night pier-cing sound of woe that strove to sing, I fol-lowed

mp

13

where it hid and found a small soft-throat-ed thing a fea-thered hand-ful of gray

mp

mf

18 *mp* *rit.* *Tempo primo* *mf* *mp*

grief Perched by the year's last leaf. And

23 **C** *mf*

heed - ing not that in the sky The lamps of peace were

27 **D** *mp* *mf*

lit, It sent a - broad that sob-bing cry, and sad hearts e - choed

p *mf* *loco*

32 *p* *mp* *mf*

it. Oh hush, poor grief, so gray, so wild,

37 *f* *mf*

God still is with His child

rit. *mp*

the chickadee

Stout-hearted bird,
When thy blithe note I heard
From out the wind-warped tree –
Chick-a-dee-dee! –
There came to me
A sense of triumph, an exultant breath
Blown in the face of death.
For what are harsh and bitter circumstances
When the heart dances,
And pipes to rattling branch and icy lea,
Chick-a-dee-dee!

Sing loud, sing loud
Against that leaden cloud,
That draggeth drearily,
Chick-a-dee-dee!
Pour out thy free
Defiance to the sharpest winds that blow
And still increasing snow.
By courage, faith and joy art thou attended,
And most befriended
By thine own heart that bubbleth cheerily,
Chick-a-dee-dee!

text by
A.E. WETHERALD

music by
E.K.R. HAMMELL

**Playfully & proud,
yet dainty** ♩ = 168

VOCAL

Piano *mf* *legato, no pedal* (until indicated)

A

mf

Stout heart-ed bird, when thy blithe note I heard from_

5

out the wind warp tree chick-a - dee-dee-dee! chick-a -

8

-dee-dee-dee-dee! There came to me a sense of triumph, an ex -

f *mf*

f

B

12

-ul - tant breath blown in the face___ of death. Sing loud, sing loud, a -

mf

Ped. Ped.

17

-gainst that lead-en cloud___ that___ drag - geth dream - ly___ chick-a-

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

C

21

f purposefully

-dee-dee-dee!___ chick-a dee-dee-dee-dee!___ Pour___ out thy free___ de -

f (no pedal)

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

2

-fiance___ to the sharp-est winds___ that

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

26

mp

blow _____ and still in- creas-ing snow. For what are

mp

mp

D

31

mf

harsh cir-cum-stan - ces when the heart dan-ces and pipes to rattling branch and i - cy lea

mf

mp

Ped.

35

f

By cou-rage faith and joy art thou at-ten-ded and most be - frien- ded _____ By thine own

mf

f

Ped.

39

heart that bub - bleth cheer-i - ly Chick-a-

42

- dee-dee-dee! Chick-a - dee-dee-dee- dee!

45

E with a delicate sprightliness

p (no ped.)

51

pp *rit.* *ppp*

Ped.

vi.
the bird's hour (part 2)

text by

A.E. WETHERALD

*Long, long before there is life at any door,
Or smoke at any roof, or laughing words
Of children fresh from sleeping, the outer world is steeping
In the heaven-given rapture of the birds.*

music by

E.K.R. HAMMELL

Wondrous, freely ♩ = ca. 60

8va

Piano

mf *p* *mp*

Ped. ** Ped.* ** Ped.*

3 *3* *3*

4 **a tempo** *mp*

**all accidentals apply until the nearest bar line*

Long be - fore there is life at a - ny door Or smoke at an - y roof, Or

5 *f* **all accidentals apply until the nearest bar line*

** con ped. (slurs indicate suggested pedalling)*

6 *3* *mp*

Or - ing words of chil - dren fresh from sleep - ing the out - er world is

9 **with forward motion**

mf

steep - ing — In the hea - ven giv - en rap - ture of the birds.

p *mp* *mf*

12

f *mf*

The world be - longs to the birds.

f

l.v., cut off together

Ped. *

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Choral : SATB / SAB / SSAATTBB

<u>Daffodils*</u>	SATB + piano	Wordsworth	4 min	easy	2017	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0003
<u>Daffodils*</u>	SAB + piano	Wordsworth	4 min	easy	2017, arr. 2022	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0025
<u>I Shall Not Forget</u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Lampman	4 min	medium	2017	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0002
<u>Oh Earth*</u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Lampman	3 min	medium	2018	Santa Barbara Music Publishing	SBMP1515
<u>Spring*</u>	SATB + piano	Mason	2 min	easy - medium	2019	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0011
<u>Too Still for Dreams*</u>	SATB + piano	Wetherald	4 min	medium - hard	2022	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0024
<u>Trust*</u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Browning	6 min	medium - hard	2021	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0018
<u>Winter Dawn, A</u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Montgomery	4 min	medium	2017	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0006
<u>You Wave*</u>	SSAATTBB + piano	Sanford	5 min	medium - hard	2019	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0012

Choral : treble / SA / SSA / SSAA

<u>Daffodils*</u>	SSA + piano	Wordsworth	4 min	easy	2017, arr. 2023	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0023
<u>Nina Nana Veneziana (Lullaby of Venice) (arr.)</u>	2-part (SA choir or soloists) + piano	trad. Venetian	4 min	easy	2022	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0022
<u>Thee</u>	SSAA a cappella	Montgomery	4 min	medium	2018	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0008

Choral: TB / TTBB

<u>Out*</u>	TTBB a cappella	Shakespeare	4 min	medium - hard	2016	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0004
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Solo Vocal / Art Song

<u>FeminIndigenization</u>	baritone + piano (+ opt. cello)	Clear Wind Blows Over The Moon	8 songs / 15 min total	G2 - F4	2017	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0005
<u>Nina Nana Veneziana (Lullaby of Venice) (arr.)</u>	2-part (soloists or choir) + piano	trad. Venetian	1 song / 4 min total	easy	2022	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0022
<u>Songs from the Aviary*</u>	soprano + piano	Wetherald	6 songs / 11 min total	C#4 - A5	2019, rev. 2022	E.K.R. Hammell Music	EH0009