

SCOTT BLASCO

WIND/PSALM

FOR VOICE WITH ADAPTABLE ACCOMPANIMENT

2017

WIND/P SALM (2017)

by SCOTT BLASCO

Text by TRACY A. YOUNG

DURATION c. 4'30" – 5'00"

PROGRAM NOTE:

Wind/Psalm is a setting of a poem by the composer's wife, Tracy Young. Young's text echoes the common *lament* structure found throughout the Book of Psalms, in which the psalmist first presents a plea for deliverance from a present hardship, then closes with a statement of confidence in God's faithful help. The title *Wind/Psalm* refers to the imagery of air and breath central to the poem. The flexible accompaniment is written to accommodate a variety of instrumental means, in the manner of the continuo texture common in music of the 16th-17th centuries.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

ACCIDENTALS persist for immediately repeated pitches, but not through entire systems.

RHYTHM is notated very freely for the voice, with the proportional placement of notes indicating very approximate duration relative to the accompaniment. Above all, it should be performed with emphasis on a relaxed, fluid unfolding of the line rather than a precise attempt to coordinate literal vertical interaction with the notated accompaniment. The dotted slurs in the voice part indicate musical phrases that should be sung without break (as far as possible), with the durations of final notes unhurried while still allowing time for breath and some silence before the next phrase.

ACCOMPANIMENT instrumentation is flexible, in the manner of continuo notation of the 16th-17th centuries. Solo piano or vibraphone* are most obvious, and the part includes pedal markings appropriate to these instruments. However, it may equally effectively be performed by a small ensemble, in which case the performers should coordinate to achieve same balance of sustain and harmonic clarity indicated by the pedal markings.

The timing of the accompaniment should also be approached with some flexibility, but it is intended to provide something of a regular background over which the vocal phrases unfold. Chords should be arpeggiated in a slow roll, taking 1-2 seconds, with 5-6 seconds separating the beginning of one chord and the beginning of the next. As indicated by pedal, the harmony should be sustained throughout, cleared at pedal markings to clarify harmony.

*If using vibraphone as the accompaniment instrument, alter the first three chords of the final system to place G5 between the notated F5 and Db6, and omit the G6. For the last four chords, change the F5-G6 dyad to G5-F6.

WIND/P SALM

Text by Tracy A. Young

for voice with adaptable accompaniment

Scott Blasco (b. 1978)

Very slow, suspended

*approx. 25-30" per system
(5-6" per rolled chord)*

mf
unhurried arpeggiation - not grace notes

(Eb)

Ped. throughout, only half clear if needed. Clear where marked.

mp

I am a sha - dow to be en -

mp

fleshed, a mist with - out form

Haze a - drift a - drift up - on the somber moss.

mf

But your breath will grow my bones, your whisp - er will un-furl

mf
Ped.

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Text ©2017 Tracy A. Young

my veins. A flutter a flutter from your throat, my vis - ion un-

Ped.

veiled, _____ my vis - ion un - veiled. _____

poco più p I sink my weight in - to the joy - ful soil, *poco crescendo* with arms out - stretched _____

poco più p
Ped.

mp (gentle, warm, firm) and sing the songs not yet heard.

mp

p continue established pace (5-6" per rolled chord); non diminuendo *let ring to silence*