Martha Hill Duncan

A Child's Song of Christmas

for voice and piano



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Text:

My counterpane is soft as silk, My blankets white as creamy milk. The hay was soft to Him, I know, Our little Lord of long ago.

Above the roofs the pigeons fly In silver wheels across the sky. The stable-doves they cooed to them, Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Bright shines the sun across the drifts, And bright upon my Christmas gifts. They brought Him incense, myrrh, and gold, Our little Lord who lived of old.

Oh, soft and clear our mother sings Of Christmas joys and Christmas things. God's holy angels sang to them, Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Our hearts they hold all Christmas dear, And earth seems sweet and heaven seems near, Oh, heaven was in His sight, I know, That little Child of long ago.

- Marjorie Pickthall

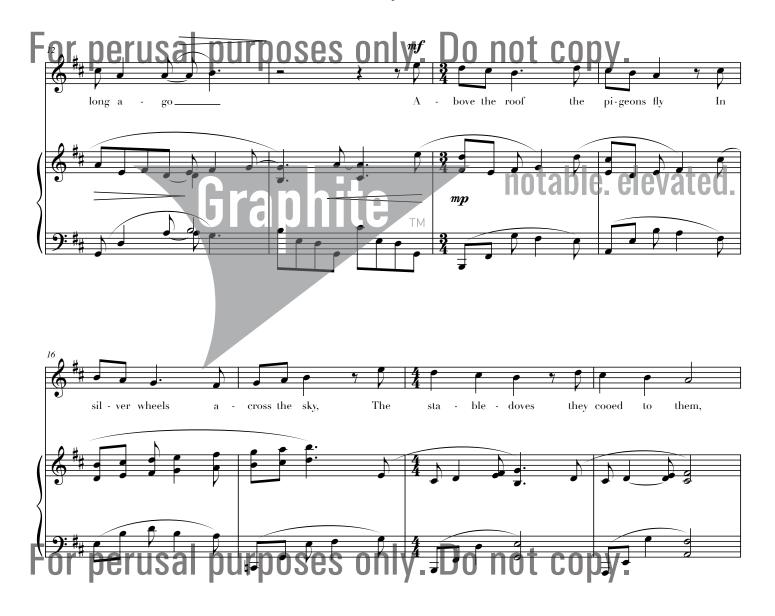
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Marjorie Pickthall (1883 - 1922)

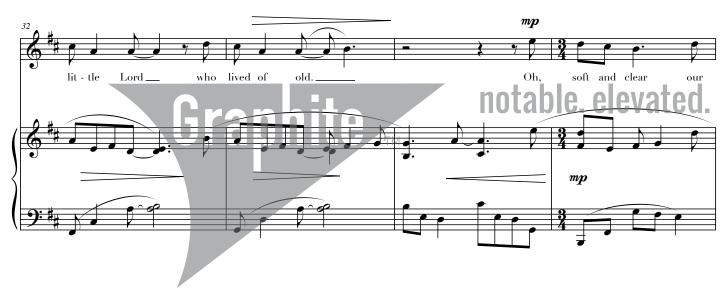
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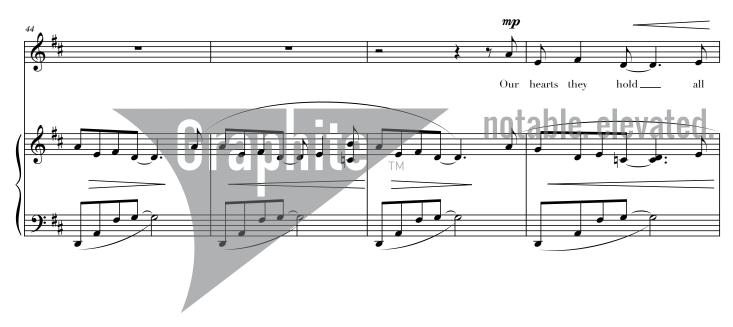




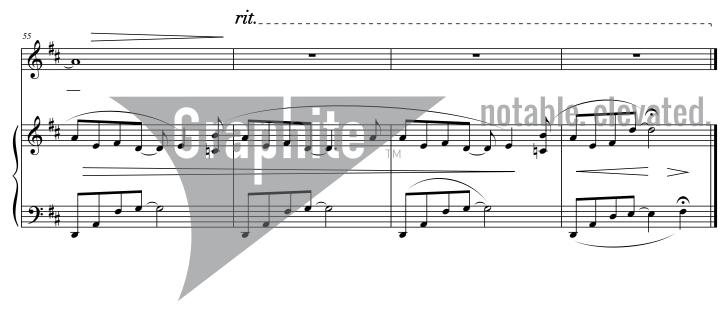




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Martha Hill Duncan received a diploma in Vocal Music in the first graduating class of the Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts and a BM in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin. Her composition teachers have included Donald Grantham, Robert Palmer and Sam Dolin; her piano teachers have included Gregory Allen, Danielle Martin, Errol Haun and Trudi Borden.

Her ongoing interest in vocal music and recognition of her adopted country, Canada, has culminated in a cycle of songs for voice and piano entitled *Singing From the Northland: A Celebration of Canadian Poetry in Song*. Three of these songs, "Severance," "Grey Rocks and Greyer Seas" and "Rainfall" were chosen as finalists and performed in the 2005 Diana Barnhart American Song Competition in Wayne, PA.

As director of the Kingston, Ontario women's choir She Sings!, she has also produced several works for treble choir including "Song of the Stars," "Lady Icicle" and "Lullaby of the Iroquois." These three songs were performed on May 11, 2007 by the The New York Treble Singers in their concert entitled American Voices. "Star Prayers" was a co-winner in the 2005 Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition. Choirs that have commissioned her

work include Aurora, Melos Chamber Choir, Pro Arte Singers, and the Young Choristers Limestone.

Other vocal works from Graphite:

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Jenni Brandon	GP - B001	Imperceptible	soprano, piano
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Matthew Culloton	GP - C003	That Shadow My Likeness (collection)	voice, piano
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Martha Hill Duncan	GP - D017	Singing in the Northland, Vol. 1 (collection)	voice, piano
Martha Hill Duncan	GP - D018	Singing in the Northland, Vol. 2 (collection)	voice, piano
Martha Hill Duncan	GP - D025	A Child's Song of Christmas	voice, piano
Jocelyn Hagen	GP - H002	Hope (cycle)	soprano, piano
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Jocelyn Hagen	GP - H005.1	love. songs (cycle)	soprano, piano
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Paul John Rudoi	GP - R011	We'll Find a Way	soprano, piano
Paul John Rudoi	GP - R011.1	We'll Find a Way	alto, piano
Paul John Rudoi			
and Timothy C. Takach	GP - R015	Haragei (collection)	tenor, bass, a cappella
Joshua Shank	GP - S002	Services of Snow (cycle)	soprano, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T008	Departure (cycle)	high voice, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP - T012	Where Beauty Comes From (cycle)	high voice, piano



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