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Carol Barnett

Longing for Home

I. Jerusalem

II. Mother

*III. Voyager Dust

IV. A Letter to Marianne Moore

V. Dancing Toward the Promised Land

A song cycle for mezzo, baritone, and piano

 beady eyes publishing

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VOYAGER DUST

When they arrive in the new country,
voyagers carry it on their shoulders,
the dusting of the sky they left behind.

The woman on the bus in the downy sweater,
I could smell it in her clothes.

It was voyager's dust from China.
It lay in the foreign stitching of her placket.
It said: *We will meet again in Beijing,
in Guangzhou. We will meet again.*

My mother had voyager's dust in her scarves.
I imagine her a new student like this woman on the bus,
getting home, shaking out the clothes from her suitcase,
hanging up, one by one, the garments from the old country.

On washing day my mother would unroll her scarves.

She'd hold one end, my brother or I the other,
and we'd stretch the wet georgette and shake it out.

We'd dash, my brother or I, under the canopy,
its soft spray on our faces like the ash
of debris after the destruction of a city,
its citizen driven out across the earth.

We never knew
it was voyager dust. It said:
*We will meet again in Damascus,
in Aleppo. We will meet again.*

It was Syria in her scarves.

We never knew it.
Now it is on our shoulders too.

Mohja Kahf (b. 1967)

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duration: c. 3:30

Composer's note

Syrian-American poet, novelist, and professor **Mohja Kahf** emigrated to the United States with her family in 1971. She graduated from Douglass College in 1988, and later received

her Ph.D. in comparative literature from Rutgers. Since 1995, she has taught at the University of Arkansas. *Voyager Dust* is the third of five songs comprising *Longing for Home*, a cycle written to celebrate Source Song Festival's fifth season. The texts all

reference homecoming in various ways – the enduring wish to return to a place remembered with love and longing, as well as the uncertainty, the impossibility of doing so. In this poem, I was especially intrigued by the chance to evoke the faraway places of Beijing, Guangzhou, Damascus and Aleppo with musical gestures.

LONGING FOR HOME

III. Voyager Dust

Mohja Kahf

Carol Barnett

$\text{♩} = 104$

mf *espress.*

mezzo-soprano

mezzo-soprano

$\text{♩} = 104$

mf *playful*

When they ar -

This musical score section for mezzo-soprano consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a rest followed by a measure in 3/4 time with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 104$. The second staff begins with a measure in 4/4 time. The third staff begins with a measure in 3/4 time. The fourth staff begins with a measure in 4/4 time. The vocal line starts with a sustained note followed by eighth-note patterns. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 4 concludes with a dynamic marking of ***mp***.

mezzo

mezzo

rive in the new coun - try, voy - ag - ers car - ry it on their shoul - ders, the

This musical score section for mezzo-soprano continues from the previous section. It includes lyrics: "rive in the new coun - try, voy - ag - ers car - ry it on their shoul - ders, the". The vocal line consists of eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note figures. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords.

mezzo

mezzo

dust - ing of the sky they left be - hind. The

This musical score section for mezzo-soprano continues from the previous section. It includes lyrics: "dust - ing of the sky they left be - hind. The". The vocal line consists of eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note figures. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords.

III. Voyager Dust

mezzo

14

wo-man on the bus _____ in the down - y sweat-er, _____ I could smell it on her clothes.

19

It was voy-ag-e'r's dust from Chi - na. It lay in the for - eign

24

stitch - ing of her plack - et. _____ It said: _____ We will

p lontano

pp lontano

III. Voyager Dust

mezzo 29

mezzo 29
meet a - gain _____ in Bei - jing, _____ in Guang - zhou. _____ We will

mezzo 34

mezzo 34
meet a - gain. _____ My mo - ther had

mezzo 39

mezzo 39
voy - ag - er's dust in her scarves. _____ I im - a - gine her a

mezzo 39

III. Voyager Dust

mezzo 43

new stu - dent ____ like this wo - man ____ on the bus get - ting home, ____ shak - ing out the

mezzo 48

clothes from her suit - case, hang - ing up, one by one, the gar - ments from the

mezzo 52

old coun - try. On

mezzo 52

mezzo *mf playful*

57 $\text{♩} = 69$
wash - ing day — my moth - er ____ would un - roll _____ her scarves. _____

61 $\text{♩} = 69$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{mp} \\ \text{8} \end{array} \right.$
She'd hold one end, my broth - er or I the oth - er, ____ and we'd stretch _____ the wet geor -

66 $\text{♩} = 69$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4 \\ \text{8} \end{array} \right.$
mezzo
gette ____ and shake it out. ____ We'd dash, ____ my broth - er or I, ____ un - der the

66 $\text{♩} = 69$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{8} \\ \text{8} \end{array} \right.$

III. Voyager Dust

mezzo 71

can - o - py, — its soft spray on our fac - es like the ash sh

dim.

mezzo 75

sh sh of de - bris af - ter the des - truc - tion of a

$\text{♩} = 63$

p intense 4

mezzo 78

cresc. cit - y, — its cit - i - zens driv - en out a - cross the earth.

dim.

f

4

mezzo 78

cresc. dim.

mf

3

mezzo (♩ = ♪)

83 *mp* 3
We nev - er knew it was voy - ag - er dust. It

83 (♩ = ♪)
p

88 *p lontano*
said: We will meet a - gain in Da -

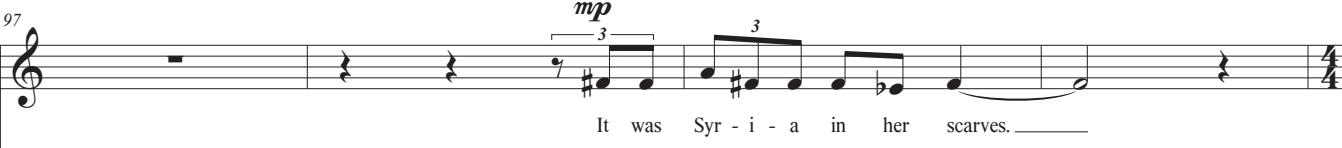
88 *pp lontano*
Reo.

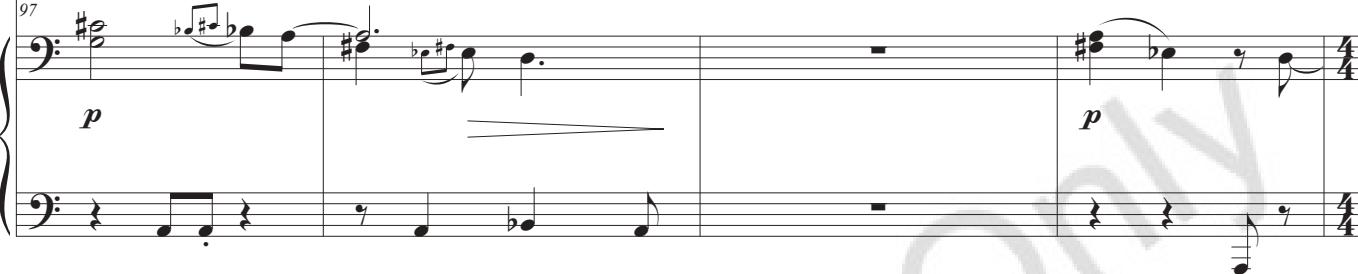
mezzo mas cus, in A - lep po. We will meet a-gain.

92 3 <

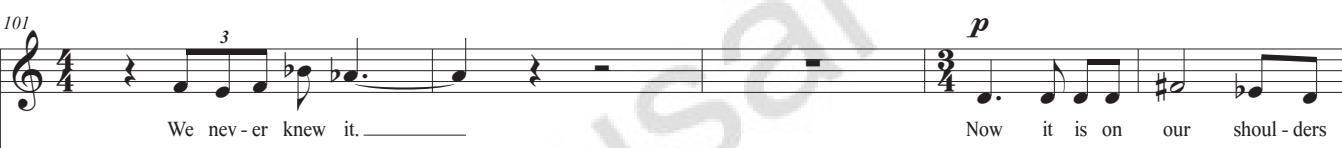
III. Voyager Dust

mezzo

97 *mp*
It was Syr - i - a in her scarves. 

97 *p* 

mezzo

101 *p*
We nev - er knew it. Now it is on our shoul - ders 

101 *p* 

mezzo

106 too. 

106 *pp* 