

The Prayer Wind
GP-B005.1
voice, piano

Abbie Betinis

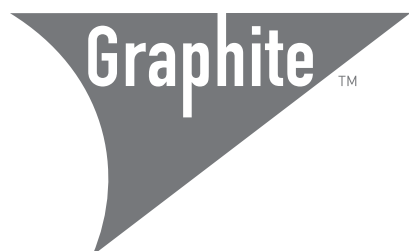
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Abbie Betinis

The Prayer Wind

for voice and piano

from *The Clan of the Lichens*



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Program Note:

Opal Whiteley (1897-1992), child literary prodigy and acclaimed Oregon naturalist, was famous for her bestselling childhood diary (pub. 1920), but also wrote some poetry. These poems, extracted from her little-known collection *The Flower of Stars*, were written when Whiteley was in her early twenties. Her unique and consistent mythology permeates all of her writing. She often returns to such themes as the universal journey of man, the substantive nature of time, the divinity in the color blue, the instinctual understanding of children, the music of the solar system, and a host of metaphors from nature to illuminate personal relationships. After a tremendous scandal in which the true authorship of Whiteley's celebrated journal was questioned, she became virtually unknown and died in 1992 in a London asylum. This song cycle, which premiered in November 2004, was commissioned by Jennifer Kult and Jocelyn Hagen, and the composer dedicates the score (with love) to them.

Text:

There was quiet in the garden,
Save for the music
From the harp of stars,
When to its playing
Came the Prayer Wind
Wearing rose petal slippers
And twining forget-me-nots
In her hair.

There was quiet in the garden,
While the Prayer Wind
Dropped her forget-me-nots
From twining in her hair.
They fell to earth
With the low sweet notes
From the harp of stars.

They gently drifted down
And homes were gladder that day—
Nobody knew why, only
There were more blue-eyed children.

The Prayer Wind

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from *The Clan of the Lichens*
high voice and piano

Opal Whiteley

Abbie Betinis

Fluidly, ♩. = 46

p
There was qui - et in the

pp

And. ad lib.

mp *mp*

gar - den, Save for the mu - sic From the harp of stars,

mp *pp*

mp *rit.*



Please report performances of this piece to Abbie Betinis at abbie@abbiebetinis.com

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6 *a tempo* *mp* *cresc.*

When to its play - ing Came the

6 *a tempo* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

8 Prayer Wind

8 *mf* *p*

9 *mf* *p*

Ah

9 *mf* *p*

2

11 *p* *delicately* *molto*

Wear - - - ing rose _____ pet - al slip - pers And__

11 *delicately* *molto*

13 *mf* *rit.* *p*

twin - - - ing for - get - me - nts _____ In her

13 *mf* *rit.* *pp*

14 *a tempo* (*p*)

hair. _____ There was qui - et _____ in the

14 *a tempo* (*pp*) *TM*

16 *mf* 2

gard - en _____ While _____ the Prayer Wind _____ Dropped _____ her for -

mp

18 2

get - me - nots _____ From

sub. p

19 *f*

twin - - - ing in her hair. _____

f *pull back*

21 *mf*

They fell, _____ they fell _____ to

21 *sweetly*

p *mf* *sub. p*

Leg. -----

23 *poco rit. ----- Slower*

p

earth _____ With the low sweet

23 *poco rit. ----- Slower*

pp

25 *accel. ----- f*

notes From the harp of stars _____

25 *accel. -----*

2

Tempo Primo

26

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Tempo Primo

26

28

pp freely, as recitative

They gen - tly drift - ed down,

28

pp

repeat notes at random, as a windchime

ff

pp

repeat notes at random, as a windchime

1/2 *Ad.* -----

29

p

pp

down And homes were glad - der that day No -

29

31 *p*

- - - bod - y knew why, on - ly There were more

31 *poco* *p* *sva-*

33 *almost still*
ppp

blue - - - - - eyed

33 *almost still*
ppp 5 5

Tempo Primo, misterioso

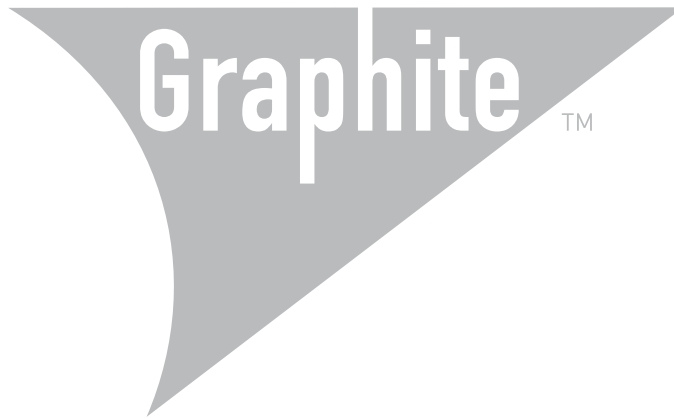
34 *p*

chil - - - dren.

Tempo Primo, misterioso TM

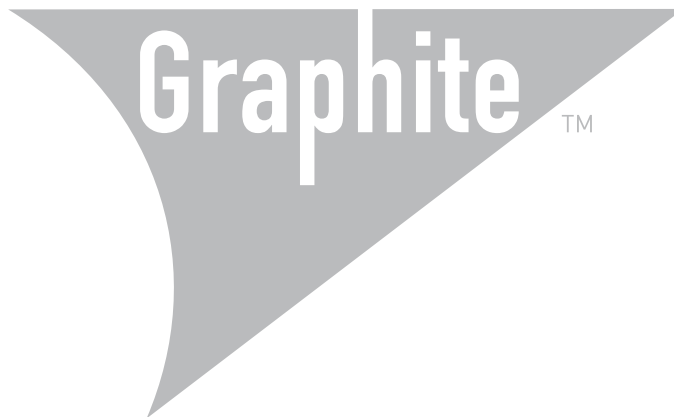
34 *pp*

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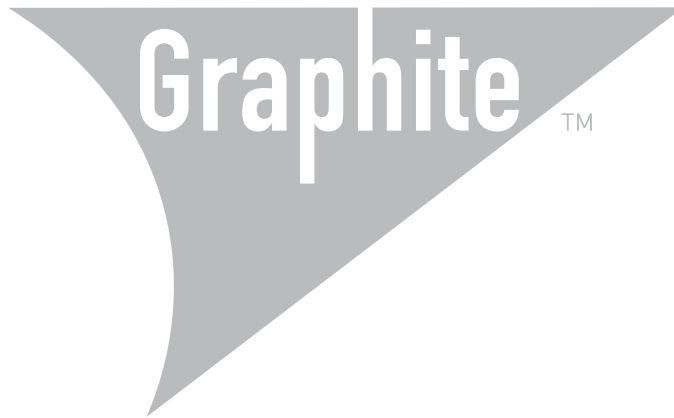
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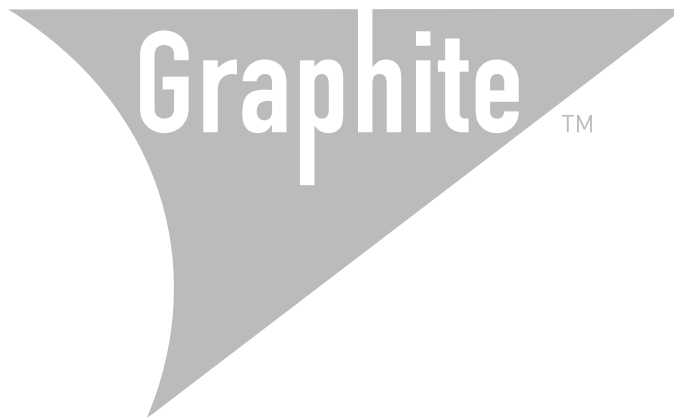
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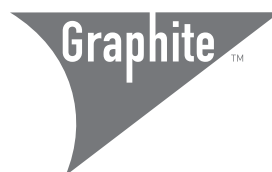


Reviewed as “dreamlike” and “audacious... edgy and thrilling,” the music of Abbie Betinis is being performed increasingly in the United States and abroad. Her work has been commissioned by nearly 40 music organizations including the American Suzuki Foundation, Cantus, Cornell University Chorus, Dale Warland Singers, The Rose Ensemble, and the Young New Yorkers’ Chorus. Originally from Wisconsin, she studied composition at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France.

In 2005, Betinis was named Composer-in-Residence for The Schubert Club in St. Paul, where her second song cycle *Nattsanger* (Nightsongs) premiered in 2008. Her choral music is published by Augsburg Fortress, Kjos, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and in G. Schirmer’s Dale Warland Choral Series. Her art song scores are available through Graphite Publishing, and on her personal website at www.abbiebetinis.com.

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