

The Sweetness of my Dreams (cycle)
GP-H008
mezzo-soprano, piano

Jocelyn Hagen

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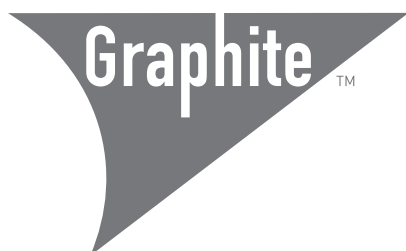
Jocelyn Hagen



The Sweetness of my Dreams

for mezzo-soprano and piano

- I. I Will Sing You a Song
- II. Dandelion
- III. Theatre Song
- IV. Moon Song
- V. About my Dreams



notable. elevated.

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Program Notes:

Welcome to the magical world of Hilda Conkling, poetic prodigy, age 10. This sensationally young girl captures the essence of a child's spirit so ingeniously in these poems, published in 1920. These texts are full of unanswered questions, exaggerated declarations, interrupted thoughts and curiosities, and even profound, altruistic notions. The music strives to capture this same spirit in its melody, harmony, and form. "I will sing you a song!" shows both a young child's eagerness to please as well as their intense vulnerability. "Dandelion," a composed temper-tantrum, with stomping feet and all, brings to light a child's seriousness and fanatical obsession with what we as adults may consider trifle. "Theatre Song" is a theatrical act, and as such, an exaggerated tale, while "Moon Song" captures the spirit of endless questions and bedtime avoidance. Most entrancing, however, is "About my Dreams," when a child is drifting in and out of sleep, with their best intentions and hopes and dreams, illuminating the philosophical aspect of a child's spirit that we so often take for granted.

Performance Notes:

For the singer: These pieces require a commitment of character, however, do not adjust your singing voice to sound as a child's. Only in one section, the 'Moon-Song' of "I will sing you a song!," should adjustments be made.

For the pianist: Most of the time pedal is ad lib and the touch light, bright and easy. The piano accompaniment often reflects the emotions of the character.

The Sweetness of my Dreams - Texts:

5 pieces on poetry by 10 year old poet, Hilda Conkling
(published in 1920)

I. I will sing you a song!

I will sing you a song,
Sweets-of-my-heart,
With love in it,
(How I love you!)
What song shall I sing,
Rose-song or clover-song?
If I find a moon,
I will sing a moon song.

The red moon comes out in the night.
When I'm asleep, the moon comes pattering up
Into the trees.
Then I peep out my window
To watch the moon go by.

Will you love me to-morrow after next?
As if I had a bird's way of singing?

II. Dandelion

O Little Soldier with the golden helmet,
What are you guarding on my lawn?
You with your green gun
And your yellow beard,
Why do you stand so stiff?
There is only the grass to fight!

III. Theatre Song (an exaggerated tale)

Eagles were flying over the sky
And mermaids danced in the gold waters.
Eagles were calling over the sky
And the water was the color of blue flowers.
Sunshine was 'flected in the waves
Like meadows of white buds.
This is what I saw
On a morning long ago...

IV. Moon Song

There is a star that runs very fast,
That goes pulling the moon
Through the tops of the poplars.
It is all in silver,
The tall star:
The moon rolls goldenly along
Out of breath.
Mr. Moon, does he make you hurry?

V. About my Dreams

Now the flowers are all folded
and the dark is going by.
The evening is arising...
it is time to rest.
When I am sleeping
I find my pillow full of dreams.
they are all new dreams:
no one told them to me
before I came through the cloud.
They remember the sky, my little dreams,
they have wings, they are quick, they are sweet.
Help me tell my dreams
to the other children,
so that their bread may taste whiter,
so that the milk they drink
may make them think of meadows in the sky of stars.
Dear God, let me hold up my silver cup
for them to drink,
and tell them the sweetness
of my dreams.

The Sweetness of my Dreams

I will sing you a song!

Mezzo-Soprano and piano

Hilda Conkling

Jocelyn Hagen

Boisterous! ♩ = 80 **f**

I will sing you a song! — Sweets - of - my -

light & energetic **mp** **mf** **mp**

pedal ad lib

mf

heart, — I will sing you a song with love in it.

p **pp** **mp** **fp**

TM

5

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7 *f* *mp* *an interrupting thought*

— (how I love you!) — (how I love you!)

7 *mf* *p* *an interrupting thought*

11 *suddenly boisterous again* *f*

What song shall I sing, —

11 *mp*

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14 *extremely freely*
may be spoken or half-sung
with an eagerness to please *mf* *mp*

Rose-song or clo-ver-song? — If I find a moon, I will sing a moon song. —

14 *ppp* *pp* *p*

2

The Moon-Song

Placid ♩ 96-100

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18 *rit.*

18 *rit.* *loco* *mf* *TM* *loco* *3*

20 *mf* without vibrato

The red moon comes out in the night. — When I'm a - sleep,

20 *mp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

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25 *p* *whispered*

the moon comes pat-ter-ing up — In-to the trees. Then I peep out my win-dow

25 *TM* *p* *3* *3* *3*

Tempo I

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31 *mp* *molto rit.* *mf*
To watch the moon go — by. Sweets-of-my-heart,

31 *mp* *p*
notable. elevated.

36 *subito p* *mp*
Will you love me to-mor - row — af-ter next, As if I — had a

36 *mp*
notable. elevated.

39 *rit.*
bird's — way of sing - ing?

39 *p* *pp*
notable. elevated.

4

II. Dandelion

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Hilda Conkling

Jocelyn Hagen

A stocky, fearless march ♩ = 72-76

ff

dry; but with some pedaling

notable. elevated.

5 **f** *furious, with mounting ferociousness*

O Lit-tle Sol-dier with the gol-den hel-met, — What are you guard-ing on my

mf **p**

notable. elevated.

8

lawn? You with your green gun And your yel-low beard,

8

notable. elevated.

11

Why do you stand so stiff?

11

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13 *mf* *molto accel.* 3 * *fff*

There is on - ly the grass to fight!

13 *molto accel.* *subito p* *fff* *Glissando* *8va*

notable. elevated.

* optional notes, for the brave

III. Theatre Song

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Hilda Conkling

Jocelyn Hagen

Gaily, with a lot of freedom ♩ = 104-108

mf

Ea - gles were fly - ing ov - er the

delicately, in the background, far away

p *hold damper pedal throughout*

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sky And mer-maids danced in the gold wa - - -

8va

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11

- - ters. Ea - gles were cal - ling o - ver the sky

(8va)

11

Graphite TM loco

pp

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Musical score for measures 11-16. The melody is in G major, 3/4 time. Measures 11-12 have a half note, and measures 13-16 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: And the wa-ter was the co - lor of blue.

Piano accompaniment for measures 11-16. Measures 11-12 have a half note, and measures 13-16 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: And the wa-ter was the co - lor of blue.

22 *mf*

Musical score for measures 22-27. The melody is in G major, 3/4 time. Measures 22-23 have a half note, and measures 24-27 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: flow - ers. Sun - shine was 'flec - ted in the

22 *mp*

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-27. Measures 22-23 have a half note, and measures 24-27 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: flow - ers. Sun - shine was 'flec - ted in the

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27 *mp* *mf*

Musical score for measures 27-32. The melody is in G major, 3/4 time. Measures 27-28 have a half note, and measures 29-32 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: waves Like mead-ows of white buds. This is what I

27 *p*

Piano accompaniment for measures 27-32. Measures 27-28 have a half note, and measures 29-32 have a quarter note. The lyrics are: waves Like mead-ows of white buds. This is what I

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31 saw _____ On a morn - ing long _____

31 *pp*

35 a - go.

35 *nothing*

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IV. Moon Song

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Hilda Conkling

Jocelyn Hagen

Light & enchanted ♩. = 104-108

musical score for the beginning of the piece, featuring piano (mp) and a pedal ad lib instruction.

musical score for the first vocal entry, featuring piano (mp) and a piano (p) section. The lyrics are: "There is a star that runs very fast,"

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musical score for the second vocal entry, featuring mezzo-forte (mf) and subito mezzo-forte (subito mp) sections. The lyrics are: "That goes pulling the moon Through the tops of the"

8 *mp* *Glissando*

pop - lars. _____ It is all in sil - ver, The tall star:

8 *fp* *TM* *notable elevated.*

11 *mf*

The moon rolls gold - en - ly a -

11 *mp*

13 *subito p* *(breathy)* *notable elevated.*

long (ha - ha - ha - ha - ha - ha) Out of breath.

13 *pp* *TM* 19

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15 *G.P.*

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mp

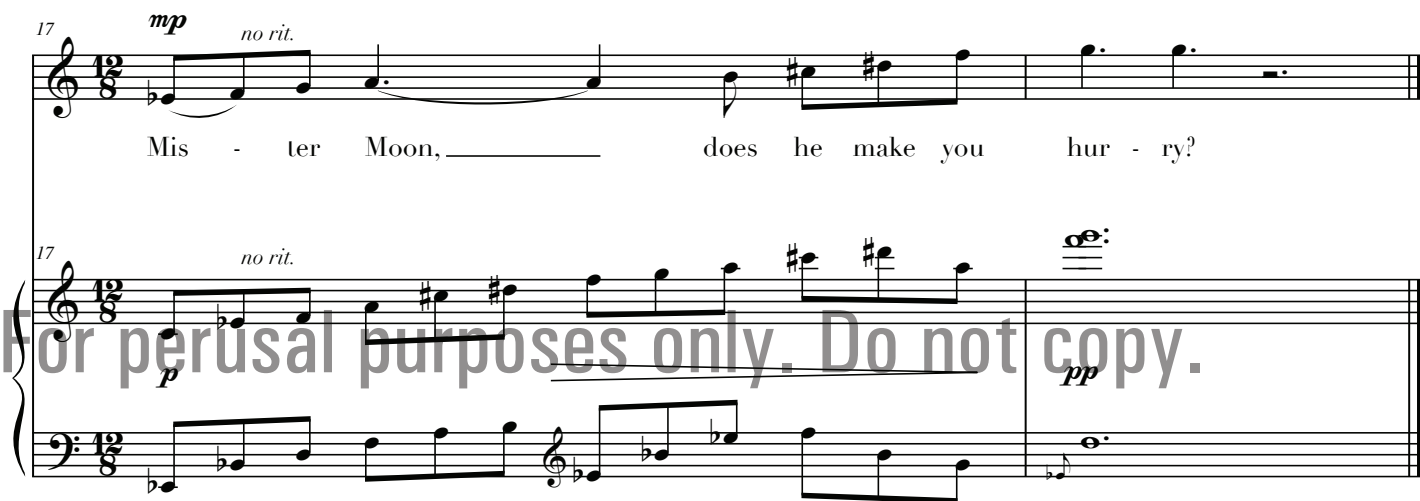


17 *mp* *no rit.*

Mis - ter Moon, _____ does he make you hur - ry?

17 *no rit.*

p *pp*



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V. About my Dreams

V. About my Dreams

Hilda Conkling

Jocelyn Hagen

With a lilt ♩ = 72+

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TM

clear, with minimum vibrato

p

foggy & smeared, as if looking through smudged glass

p

3

Now all the

Reo * *Reo* *

6

flow - ers are fold - ed and the dark is go - ing by, _____

6

* Ped. * Ped., etc. (chordally)

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10 *mp*

The eve-ning is a - ris-ing... it is time to rest. —

10

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16 *accel.* *rit.* *mp*

When I am

16 *accel.* *rit.* *mf* *mp*

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19 *a tempo* *mf* with motion

sleep-ing I find my pil-low full of dreams. — they are all new dreams;

19 *a tempo* *p* *mp* with motion

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23 *mp* *stark, without vibrato*

no one told them to me be-fore I came through the cloud. —

23 *p* *notable. elevated.*

Faster, ethereal ♩ = 88-92 *mp*

— They re-mem-ber the sky, — my

26 *pp* *8va* *8va*

28 *notable. elevated.*

lit - tle dreams, they have wings, — they are

28 *8va* *8va* *loco*

30

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quick, they are sweet.

30

8va

loco

notable. elevated.

32 *Broaden, slightly slower*
mf
 Help me tell my dreams to the oth - er

32
 6 3
mf
 6 3

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35 *accel.* *rit.*

chil-dren, Help me tell my dreams my dreams

35 *mp* *accel.* *rit.*

3 3 3 3 3 3

39 *very freely; recitative-like*
p
so that their bread may taste whit-er, — so that the milk they drink may make them

39 *8va - colla voce*
pp
notable: elevated.

43 *mp*
think of mead-ows in the sky of stars. Dear —

43 *in the style of the beginning*
mp
Leg.

48
God, let me hold up my sil-ver cup — for them to drink, —

48 *p*
TM

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and tell them the sweet-ness of my dreams.

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Jocelyn Hagen

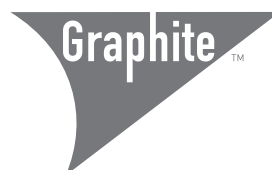


Jocelyn Hagen composes music that has been described as “simply magical” (Fanfare Magazine) and “dramatic and deeply moving” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). She is a pioneer in the field of composition, pushing the expectations of musicians and audiences with large-scale multimedia works, electro-acoustic music, dance, opera, and publishing. Her first forays into composition were via songwriting, still very evident in her work. The majority of her compositions are for the voice: solo, chamber and choral. Her melodic music is rhythmically driven and texturally complex, rich in color and deeply heartfelt. In 2023 her opera *The Song Poet*, written with Hmong writer Kao Kalia Yang, premiered with Minnesota Opera, and sold out their run over six months prior to the premiere date. In 2019 she celebrated the premiere of her multimedia symphony *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, which includes video projections created by a team of visual artists, highlighting da Vinci’s spectacular drawings, inventions, and texts. The work has already been performed over thirty times across the United States, including Sweden. Hagen describes her process of composing for choir, orchestra and film simultaneously in a Tedx Talk given at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, now available on YouTube. Hagen’s commissions include *Conspirare*, the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, Voces8, the International Federation of Choral Music, *Conspirare*, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, the American Choral Directors Associations of Minnesota, Georgia, Connecticut and Texas, the North Dakota Music Teachers

Association, Cantus, the Boston Brass, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the St. Olaf Band, among many others. Her work is independently published through JH Music, as well as through Graphite Publishing, G. Schirmer, EC Schirmer, Fred Bock Music Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Boosey and Hawkes.

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