

She Does Not Let Go  
GP - T024  
2-part treble, piano

Timothy C. Takach

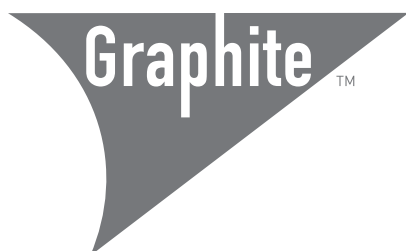
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# Timothy C. Takach

## She Does Not Let Go

for 2-part treble voices and piano

Commissioned in 2020 by North Dakota ACDA in honor of Surround the State in Song.  
"We recognize the importance of the arts persisting and flourishing through adversity."



notable. elevated.

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## Text:

Stubborn, the yellow leaf  
does not let go of the branch.

I watch her battle  
against wind and rain,  
against gravity.

For days, I've been watching  
her quiet effort,  
her tiny tragedy.

Her persistence  
does not deserve oblivion.

That is why  
I put her here,  
in this verse  
from which she will not fall.

- *"Ars Poetica" from Traducir el silencio by Manuel Iris (Artepoética Press, 2018). Copyright © 2018 by Manuel Iris. Reprinted and used with permission from Manuel Iris.*

## Manuel Iris



Celebrated Mexican poet Manuel Iris, currently Poet Laureate of the City of Cincinnati, received the "Merida" National award of poetry (Mexico, 2009) for his book "Notebook of dreams," and the Rodolfo Figueroa Regional award of poetry for his book "The disguises of fire" (Mexico, 2014). Between 2016 and 2018 three different anthologies of his poetic work were published: "The naked light," in Venezuela; "Before the mystery," in El Salvador; and "Traducir el Silencio/Translating silence," in New York. This book won two different awards at the International Latino Book Awards in Los Angeles, California, in 2018. Manuel Iris holds a BA in Latin American Literature from the Autonomous University of the Yucatan (Mexico), an MA in Spanish from the New Mexico State University, and a PhD in Romance Languages from the University of Cincinnati, the city in which he lives.

## Timothy C. Takach



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making better humans through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach is a mainstay in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, PBS, many All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein. Takach has been Composer in Residence for the Texas Boys Choir, The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, and True Concord Voices and Orchestra.

Takach's a cappella choral symphony Helios is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* was premiered in St. Paul, MN by the James Sewell Ballet. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

## From the Composer:

The amazing thing about art is that we all take away different things from the same work. You may read Manuel's thoughts about his poem below and feel in accord with his more literal representation of the leaf, and yet I took the meaning much more figuratively. I thought immediately about the leaf as a person, being lifted and supported by another caring individual. We need to realize more often how important it is to recognize each other during times of struggle and act with care, with empathy, and with support. Many of us don't ask for help, even though we may need it desperately.

Recognize the battle. Recognize the tiny tragedies.  
Recognize the persistence.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2020

## From the Poet:

Poetry is one way to keep alive what otherwise would fade into oblivion. The humble leaf, the tree from which it clung, no longer exist, nor do I live in that apartment, with that balcony, any longer. However, when I read these words I am there once again, along with the leaf and the tree. Thanks to poetry, this moment will not be forgotten: it is always happening in the present. Everything in it escaped death.

Sometimes a poem is an act of magic.

- Manuel Iris, 2020

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for 2-part treble voices and piano

Manuel Iris

Timothy C. Takach

Lightly  $\text{♩} = 92$

Part I

Part II

Piano

*mf*

R.H.

L.H.

5

leave each key depressed

5

*mf*

Stub-born, — the yellow leaf does not let

Stub-born, — the yellow leaf does not let

R.H.

L.H.

5

leave each key depressed

3

Graphite

notable. elevated.

For questions about this piece and to report performances, contact  
 Timothy C. Takach at [tim@timothyctakach.com](mailto:tim@timothyctakach.com).

Graphite

notable. elevated.

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10

I go of the branch.

II go of the branch.

Graphite

notable, elevated.

14

I Does not let go... Does not let go...

II Does not let go... Does not let go...

Graphite

notable, elevated.

20

I I watch her bat - tle a - gainst wind and rain,

II I watch her bat - tle a - gainst wind and rain,

Graphite

notable, elevated.

2

25

I For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

II a - gainst grav - i - ty.

Graphite

TM

mp

3

3

More Motion ♩ = 104

I

II

R.H.

L.H. 5

leave each key depressed

p

mp

mf

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy

35

I mp

II mp

For days, I've been watch-ing her

For days, I've been watch-ing her

Graphite

TM

p

L.H.

mp

40

I qui - et ef - fort, I've been watch - ing her ti - ny trag - e - dy. *mf*

II qui - et ef - fort, I've been watch - ing her ti - ny trag - e - dy. *mf*

45

I Her per - sis - tence Her per - sis - tence *f*

II a - gainst wind and rain, a - gainst *f*

50

I Her per - sis - tence does not de - serve o - bliv - i - on.

II grav - i - ty. She does not de - serve o - bliv - i - on. *mf*

4

54 *p*

I That is why I put her here,

II That is why I put her here, put her

59 *mp*

I put her here, in this verse That is

II here, in this verse That is

63 *mf*

I why I put her here, in this verse from which she

II why I put her here, in this verse from which she

5

66

I will not fall.

II will not fall.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

3

71

*rit.*

**Tempo I** ♩ = 92

*p*

I Stub-born, the yel-low leaf

II Stub-born, the yel-low leaf

*mp*

*p*

75

I does not let go of the branch.

II does not let go of the branch.

pp R.H. L.H. 5 3

leave each key depressed

pp