

The Birds' Lullaby

SSAA a cappella

Duration ca. 5'

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

E. Pauline Johnson



The Birds' Lullaby

E. Pauline Johnson (1861 - 1913)

Katerina Gimon

8" 8" 10" 30" 5"

1 2 3 4

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

staggered* *mf*

staggered

staggered

together *n*

Mm

mm

mm

mm

(bright hum)

staggered* *mp*

repeat until line ends

Mm

(bright hum)

mf

Soloists:
(1 - 2 singers)
very sparse texture

Whistle like a bird/ imitate birdsong

(25")

* Enter, breathe, and re-enter (if applicable) at different times
(On the conductor's cue, enter within approximately 3 seconds. An easy way to coordinate this is to assign a specific person for the conductor to cue to start, then others can follow)

♩ = 72
mp

2

S1 Sing to us, ce - dars; the twi - light is creep - ing With shad - ow - y gar - ments, the

p

S2 Sing mm shad - ow

p

A1 Sing mm With shad - ow

p

A2 Sing mm With shad - ow

5

S1 wil - der - ness through; All day we have car - olled, and now would be sleep - ing, So

S2 oo All day

A1 mm All day,

A2 mm All day, *p* So

9 *mf*

S1 ech - o the an - thems we war - bled to you; While we swing, swing, And

S2 ech - o an - thems war - bled to you; While we swing, swing, And

A1 ech - o, you; While we swing, swing, And

A2 ech - o the an - thems we war - bled to you; While we swing, swing, And

12 *mp*

S1 your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. (ng)

S2 your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. (ng) Sing to us, ce - dars; the

A1 your branch es sing, And we drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. (ng) Sing to us, ce - dars; the

A2 your branch-es sing, And drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. (ng) Va dm va

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The score will continue on the following page.

25

S1

oo

S2

f

While we swing, — swing, — And your branch - es sing, —

A1

staggered**
mf

Sing — (ng)

staggered

Sing to us —

freely
staggered

Sing to us

A2

mf

dm — va dm — va dm — va dm — va dm — va

30

S1

Oo — oo —

S2

And we drowse to your dream - y whis - pering.

A1

ce - dars. — Ah — ah —

repeat until line ends, slowing

A2

dm — va dm — va dm — va dm — va dm — va

** As before, enter, breathe, and re-enter (if applicable) at different times. The given placement is approximate and singers may enter within 3 seconds of this entry. Again, it might be helpful to assign a specific singer to lead, singing the initial entry of each idea. There should be overlap between the staggered ideas.

The Birds' Lullaby

35

25" 8"

S1 *dim.* *drop out one by one* *mp*

(sustain)

(12")

Sing to us, ce-dars; Your voice is so low-ly,

Soloists:
(1 - 2 singers)
very sparse
texture

mf

Whistle like
a bird/ imitate
birdsong

A1 *mp*

Sing to us, ce-dars; Your voice is so low-ly,

A2 *repeat until line ends, gradually slow and stagger* *staggered mp* *repeat until line ends*

dm — va dm

va dm

39

S1 Your breath - ing so fra-grant, your branch-es so — strong; — Our lit - tle nest

S2 Our lit - tle nest

A1 Your breath - ing so fra-grant, your branch-es so — strong; —

A2 *staggered* *staggered* *repeat until line ends*

va dm

va dm

The musical score is written for four parts: S1, S2, A1, and A2. It begins at measure 35. S1 and A1 have lyrics: "Sing to us, ce-dars; Your voice is so low-ly,". S2 and A2 have a soloist instruction box: "Soloists: (1 - 2 singers) very sparse texture. mf. Whistle like a bird/ imitate birdsong". A2 has a repeated rhythmic pattern: "dm — va dm". The score continues to measure 39, where all parts have lyrics: "Your breath - ing so fra-grant, your branch-es so — strong; — Our lit - tle nest". A2 has another repeated rhythmic pattern: "va dm". The score ends with a "repeat until line ends" instruction for A2.

43

S1
cra-dles are sway-ing so slow - ly, _____ While zeph-yrs are breath-ing their slum-ber-ous song. _____

S2
cra-dles are sway-ing so slow - ly, _____ While zeph-yrs are breath-ing their slum-ber-ous song. _____

A1
staggered
va dm
repeat until line ends

A2
staggered
one breath
mm

49

S1
mf
(ng) And we swing, swing, While your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream - y whis - pering.

S2
mf
(ng) And we swing, swing, While your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream - y whis - pering.

A1
staggered
one breath
dm

A2
mf
And we swing, swing, While your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream - y whis - pering.

54

wait for last A1, then, a moment of silence

mp (begin together, then gradually slow at different rates to stagger)

together → staggered

S1
S2

Swing, — swing, While your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. —

A1
A2

Swing, — swing, While your branch-es sing, And we drowse to your dream-y whis-pering. —

59

p staggered

(together) **n**

S1
S2

We drowse to your dream - y whis - pering. — (ng)

A1
A2

We drowse to your dream - y whis - pering. — (ng)

