

## A Woman's Wordless Song

Merissa Marx

This original composition contains the following haiku:

an open window  
somewhere  
a woman's wordless song  
Lyles, 20, THTR

the third-note rise  
of a towhee's song  
fragrant breeze  
Lyles, 18, THTR

summer stillness  
the play of light and shadow  
on the wind chimes  
Lyles, 22, THTR

distant jazz  
a calla lily  
catches rain  
Lyles, 78, THTR

summer dusk:  
my neighbour sings  
to his roses  
Toft, TKB

midnight  
the cat walks  
up piano keys  
Lyles, 66, THTR

cricket sounds  
rise into the night  
the names of the dead  
Lyles, 114, THTR

I was inspired to use the haiku with musical references in them to create an overall song. It just so happened that Peggy Lyles had many wonderful haikus containing musical elements. I arranged the haiku to take you on a journey throughout a day, starting with the morning, and ending at night. I also included some text painting within the song. For instance using the word "breeze," I wrote the inner two parts to imitate the feel and sound of an actual breeze. I did the same with the terms: jazz, wind chimes, and cricket. I wanted the music to reflect each haiku individually, yet maintain an overall cohesive sound. I hope I achieved that goal.



Commissioned for Global Fairly 2012, Millikin University

# A Woman's Wordless Song

for SSAA Chorus a capella

Merissa Marx

①

An open window somewhere a wo-

4

mans wordless song The third note

7

rise of a song note rise fragrant breeze

10

sum - mer still - ness the play of light & sha-

sum - mer still - ness the play of light & sha-

sum - mer still - ness the play of light & sha-

sum - mer still - ness the play of light & sha-

13

dow on the wind chimes dis tant jazz

dow on the wind chimes dis tant jazz

dow on the wind chimes dis tant jazz

dow on the wind chimes dis tant jazz

16

A cal - la lil - ly cat -

A cal - la lil - ly cat -

A cal - la lil - ly cat -

A cal - la lil - ly cat -

28

Handwritten musical score for system 28, consisting of four staves. The lyrics are: "a-no keys", "cricket", and "sounds". The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various rhythmic values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. The word "cricket" is written twice on the second staff, and "sounds" is written on the third and fourth staves.

31

Handwritten musical score for system 31, consisting of four staves. The lyrics are: "rise in - to the night" and "the names". The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various rhythmic values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. The lyrics are written across all four staves.

34

Handwritten musical score for system 34, consisting of four staves. The lyrics are: "of the dead". The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various rhythmic values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. The lyrics are written across all four staves.

19

-ches rain summer- dusk -

-ches rain summer- dusk -

-ches rain summer- dusk -

-ches rain summer- dusk -

22

my neigh-ber si-ngs to his vo-ces

my neigh-ber si-NGS to his vo-ces

my neigh-ber si-NGS to his vo-ces mid-

my neigh-ber si-NGS to his vo-ces

25

mid-night the cat wakes up p-

mid-night the cat wakes up p-a-n-o

night the cat wakes up p-a-no

mid-night the cat wakes up p-a-no