Field of Wings

For SSAA Voices, Hammer Dulcimer, and Piano

Malcolm Dalglish

Commissioned by Peter and June Mierau
Celebrating their daughter Jessica's beautiful singing
And the Contra Costa Children's Chorus that nurtured her musically.

This piece was premiered in their 20th Anniversary Concert, May, 2004.

This piece, completed on the hundredth anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight, commemorates a sighting I'm sure they would have appreciated. Last March I found myself in the middle of Nebraska on the shoulder of a side road off the interstate, gawking at the most awesome display of snow geese and sand hill cranes. Thousands and thousands of these migrating companions lifted themselves from the plowed field into the twilight – stragglers struggling to find their place in formations bound for a long journey. My ears were full of their glottal calls. My eyes stroked the sky, leaping from one to another undulating across and over me.

There are places in the alto part requiring a very loud chest sound; a stylized form of shouting. The director may need to make a special selection of altos who are capable of these wild and loud upper chest voice calls. They need to be in tune and careful technique is important. The syllables, "huh duh" burst forth with a lot of wind, hard and strong. The second syllable is staccato and cuts off with a very slight yet audible "break." It's a very wild sound but not intended to be a literal replication of the honk of geese or the chortle of cranes. Singers may feel a little silly as they explore their voices for this sound. Persevere! It gives the song a wonderful outdoors feeling. Also, because it's quite loud, a smaller group may achieve a better balance with the rest of the choir.

Invented syllables were chosen to carry the music away from the logic of words. All consonants appearing without vowels get a neutral vowel sound like "uh." A few times through the piece and the syllables will feel natural to the feel of the music. After you have learned them, however, it's very important to UNDER-enunciate the consonants. For example: the 'V' sound has the upper front teeth barely glancing the lower lip. The various motifs in the piece are labeled descriptively and as they recur, so do the syllables. Use the descriptions and your imagination to make the music fly.

-Malcolm Dalglish, December 17, 2003

OOOLITIC MUSIC
1111 EAST WYLIE STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IN 47401
(812) 333 - 0838 WWW.OOOLITICMUSIC.COM

PERUSAL COPY

Commissioned by Peter and June Mierau, celebrating their daughter Jessica's beautiful singing and the Contra Costa Children's Chorus that nurtured her musically.
This piece was premiered in their 20th Anniversary Concert, May, 2004.

Field of Wings

For SSAA Voices, Hammer Dulcimer and Piano

Malcolm Dalglish
Piano part by Joshua Kartes

PERUSAL COPY

©2003 Ooolitic Music BMI. Copyright for all countries. All rights reserved.
Please support our music. CDs, original scores, and licenses to copy or record, are all available by contacting:
Ooolitic Music, 1111 East Wylie Street, Bloomington, IN 47401• USA • (812) 333 - 0838 • www.Oooliticmusic.com

PERUSAL COPY

©2003 Ooolitic Music BMI. Copyright for all countries. All rights reserved.

PERUSAL COPY

©2003 Ooolitic Music BMI. Copyright for all countries. All rights reserved.

PERUSAL COPY

©2003 Ooolitic Music BMI. Copyright for all countries. All rights reserved.