

Treble Chorus
SSA

Loretta K. Notareschi

Three Wind Songs

For Treble Chorus

Poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ

DMC-16



My *Three Wind Songs* set three poems by the Victorian English poet Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889). Hopkins, a Jesuit priest, was enchanted by the natural world and wrote, in addition to these poems on the wind, on subjects such as the stars, light, the seasons, and the sea. When Gregg Cannady invited me to write a piece for women's choir, I chose these poems because they suggest the musical qualities of movement, sensuality, and playfulness; and also because massed voices are a powerful metaphor for the wind. The poems are filled with vivid Romantic imagery, from "dusk and silver" blades of wheat to wind-tossed trees, "sapphire pools...smit with white," the "swept azure" of the sky, and the "glassy light" of Cupid's wings. In writing the music, I lost myself in the gusty landscape of the words, and I hope that listeners will find themselves similarly swept away.

-LKN

I. The Wind

The wind, that passes by so fleet,
Runs his fingers through the wheat,
And leaves the blades, where'er he will veer,
Tingling between dusk and silver.

II. A Windy Day in Summer

The vex'd elm-heads are pale with the view
Of a mastering heaven utterly blue;
Swoll'n is the wind that in argent billows
Rolls across the labouring willows;
The chestnut-fans are loosely flirting,
And bared is the aspen's silky skirting;
The sapphire pools are smit with white
And silver-shot with gusty light;
While the breeze by rank and measure
Paves the clouds on the swept azure.

III. Love Preparing to Fly

He play'd his wings as though for flight;
They webb'd the sky with glassy light.
His body sway'd upon tiptoes,
Like a wind-perplexèd rose;
In eddies of the wind he went
At last up the blue element.

Three Wind Songs

For Treble Chorus

Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ
(1844-1889)

I. The Wind

Loretta K. Notareschi
(b. 1977)

♩ = ca. 92
Fleet *p*

Soprano I
Ah

Soprano II
Ah

Alto
Ah

3

SI
Ah Ah

SII
Ah

A
Ah Ah

6

SI
Ah Ah

SII
Ah Ah Ah

A
Ah Ah Ah

9

mf

SI Ah Ah

SII Ah Ah

A Ah Ah

13

mf

SI The wind that pas - ses by so fleet,

mf

SII The wind that pas - ses by so fleet,

mf

A The wind that pas - ses by so fleet,

16

f

SI Runs his fin - gers through the wheat, and

f

SII Runs his fin - gers through the wheat, and

f

A Runs his fin - gers through the wheat, and