

H a n n a h S e l i n

W i n t e r

from *Four Mountain Songs*

for SSATTB choir

(with divisi)

Lyrics by Ryōkan Taigu

English translation by Nobuyuki Yuasa

FIRST

2020

EDITION

Program Note

"Winter" is one of Four Mountain Songs, a choral song cycle based on poems from each of the four seasons by Sōtō Zen Buddhist poet-priest Ryōkan Taigu (1758-1831). The lyrics are in English, following translations by Nobuyuki Yuasa. "Winter" is based on an untitled poem. Yuasa's translation preserves much of the rhythm and meter of the original, but adds an extra layer of sibilance and more closed vowel sounds.

As global warming causes increasingly drastic changes in weather patterns around the world, seasonal cycles are becoming more a nostalgic fantasy than a reality. How will seasons be experienced by future generations? What kinds of activities will be associated with them?

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

- Ryōkan Taigu, trans. Nobuyuki Yuasa

From THE ZEN POEMS OF RYOKAN by Nobuyuki Yuasa.
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Performance Notes

Soprano 1 maximum divisi: 3


Soprano 2 maximum divisi: 2


Alto maximum divisi: 6

Tenor 1 maximum divisi: 3

Tenor 2 maximum divisi: 2


Bass: no divisi

 repeat the boxed figure according to instructions provided

 unpitched

Glissandi should begin as soon as they indicated, and should stretch across the duration of the note

 decrescendo to niente

 gradual shift from one sound to the next

Winter

from *Four Mountain Songs*

Ryōkan (c. 1758-1831)
Trans. Nobuyuki Yuasa

Hannah Selin

c. 20-30"

Whisper: unpitched, but vary freely
between high, middle and low timbres.

Floating ♩ = c. 62

Soprano 1
soft
In soft

Soprano 2
spongy
soft

Alto a
div. à 3
snow
spon-gy snow_

Alto b
div. à 3
snow
spon-gy snow_

Alto c
div. à 3
snow
spon-gy snow_

Tenor 1
snow
soft mm

Tenor 2
snow
soft mm

Bass
snow
soft mm

4

S1 spon-gy In soft snow

S2 In soft snow

Aa snow soft spon-gy snow

Ab snow soft spon-gy snow

Ac snow soft spon-gy snow

T1 snow

T2 snow

B snow

pp *p* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

3 *3* *3*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of eight staves. The vocal parts are Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto A (Aa), Alto B (Ab), Alto C (Ac), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), and Bass (B). The piano accompaniment is shared by three parts: Alto A (Aa), Alto B (Ab), and Alto C (Ac). The lyrics are: S1: spon-gy, In soft, snow; S2: In soft, snow; Aa: snow, soft, spon-gy, snow; Ab: snow, soft, spon-gy, snow; Ac: snow, soft, spon-gy, snow; T1: snow; T2: snow; B: snow. The piano part features a melodic line with dynamics ranging from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). It includes a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure of each vocal line. The score is marked with a '4' at the beginning, indicating the time signature.

8

S1 snow wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness

S2 wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness oo

Aa wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness oo

Ab wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness oo

Ac wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness oo

T1 wrapped en - ti - re

T2 wrapped en - ti - re

B

p *mp* *pp* *div.* *unis.*

12

S1

S2

Aa

Ab

Ac

T1

mp

T2

mp

B

mp

15 *div. à 3 sempre pp* *accel.*

S1 In soft spon - gy snow In soft spon - gy snow In soft

Soprano 1b *div. à 3* *sempre pp*
In soft spon - gy snow In soft spon - gy

Soprano 1c *div. à 3* *sempre pp*
In soft spon - gy snow

S2

Aa *gliss.* *unis.* *p*
Wrapped in its full - ness, wrapped in its

Ab *gliss.* *unis.*

Ac *gliss.* *unis.*
oo

T1 *ss.*

T2 *ss.*

B *ss.*

Open Repeat

Enter on cue. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

95

S1

In soft spongy snow,
 Wrapped entire in its fullness,
 Stands the universe,
 And within its boundless space,
 Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

Sop. 1

Enter on cue after Sop. 1. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

S2

In soft spongy snow,
 Wrapped entire in its fullness,
 Stands the universe,
 And within its boundless space,
 Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

Sop. 1 Sop. 2

Enter on cue after Sop. 1 and 2. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

Aa

In soft spongy snow,
 Wrapped entire in its fullness,
 Stands the universe,
 And within its boundless space,
 Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

T1

p *dim. poco a poco*

with - in its bound-less space_

T2

p *div.* *dim. poco a poco*

mm

B

p *dim. poco a poco*

mm

with - in its bound-less space_

S1a

S2

Aa

T1

T2

B

pp

with - in its bound - less space

mm

mm