



Commissioned by Elektra Women's Choir with support from Paul Knickerbocker and Sharon Hayles in memory of Sharon's Father - Bruce Hayles - and Paul's Father - Paul Knickerbocker

Heron

from The Lost Words Book

Robert Macfarlane

Katerina Gimon

♩ = 120 Sharp, fiery, and attentive

Piano

Vocal Parts: S1, S2, A1, A2

Lyrics: Here hunts he - on. Here haunts her - on.

Piano

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The Lost Words written by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris.

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13 *mp* *sf p* *mf* loud, percussive whisper *f*

S1 Huge hinged her-on. Grey-winged weap-on. Grey-winged weap-on.

S2 Huge hinged her-on. Grey-winged weap-on. Grey-winged weap-on.

A1 Huge hinged her-on. Grey-winged weap-on. Grey-winged weap-on.

A2 Huge hinged her-on. Grey-winged weap-on. Grey-winged weap-on.

Pno

18 *mf* *p* **B** *mf* *sf mp*

S1 weap-o' Eked from i-ron and

S2 a. Eked from i-ron and

A1 weap-on. Eked from i-ron and

A2 weap-on. Eked from i-ron and

Pno

C

23 *mf* *sf mp* *f* *mf*

S1 wreaked from blue and beaked with steel: her-on, stat - ue,

S2 wreaked from blue and beaked with steel: - on, stat - ue,

A1 wreaked from blue and beaked with steel: her - on, stat - ue,

A2 wreaked from blue and beaked with - her - on, stat - ue,

Pno

mf *sf* *mp* *f* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

n.b.

3

29 *ff* (*gliss.*) *mf* *p* ♩ = 80 Serenely

S1 her-on, stat - ue eel. eel. eel.

S2 her - on seeks eel. eel. eel.

A1 her seeks eel. eel. eel.

A2 on seeks eel. eel. eel.

Pno *rit.* *ff* *p* ♩ = 80 Serenely

(leave pedal down until m. 49)

E

35

S1
Rock_ still at weir sill. Stone_ still at weir

S2
Rock_ still at weir sill. St_ still at weir sill.

A1
very light final "k"
Rock_ one_ weir sill_

A2
staggered breathing
Ah

Pno
randomly rearticulate high Cs sparsely (C5 and above) as octaves, octave rolls that swell and decay, individual notes, etc.
(leave pedal down until m. 49)

42

S1
still.

S2
Dead_ still at Still still. Still still at weir sill. Still_

A1
Dead_ weir Still_ weir sill. Still still at weir sill_

A2

Pno

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46 **F** *mf*

S1 Un-til, eel-less at weir sill, her-on mag-i-cally... un-stat-ues.

S2 Un-til, eel-less at weir sill, her-on mag-i-cally... un-stat-ues.

A1 weir sill, her-on mag-i-cally... un-stat-ues.

A2 her-on mag-i-call stat-ues. un-stat-ues.

Pno *pedal freely*

51 **G** *ff*

S1 Out of the wa-ter crea' egs her-on, old-priest her-on, from here-on

S2 Out of the aks long-legs her-on, old-priest her-on, from here-on

A1 O wa-ter long-legs her-on, Out of the wa-ter, from

A2 ut of the wa-ter long-legs her-on, Out of the wa-ter, from

Pno *f*

54

S1 *mf*
in all sticks and planks and rub-ber bands all clanks and clicks and rust - y squeaks. Now

S2 *mf*
in all sticks and planks and rub-ber bands all clanks and clicks and rust - y squeaks. Now

A1
here - on in all clanks and clicks. long - legs her - on,

A2
here - on in all clanks an long - legs her - on,

Pno *mp*

57 **H**

S1 *f*
her-on hauls him in-to flight- ear-ly

S2 *f*
her-on -self in-to flight-

A1 *mp* *mf*
-on, from here-on in Out of the wa-ter from here-on in

A2 *mf*
w her-on, from here-on in Out of the wa-ter from here-on in

Pno *mp* *f*

61 *n mp* **I**

S1 a-vi-a-tor and with stead-y wing-beats boosts_ his way thru'

S2 heav-y freight-er— and with wing-beats boosts_ his way thru'

A1 *mp sub* Out of the wa-ter— Out of the wa-ter. Out of the wa - ter with *mf*

A2 *mp sub* Out of the wa-ter— Out of the wa-ter Out of the wa - ter—

Pno *tr*

64 *f mf*

S1 eve - ning light to roost, to

S2 eve - ning light to roost, to

A1 *f* stead-y wing - beats boosts_ his way thru' eve - ning light with

A2 *mf* of the wa-ter— with stead - y wing - beats boosts_ his way thru'

Pno

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molto rit.

ff

S1
roost, to roost.

S2
roost, to roost.

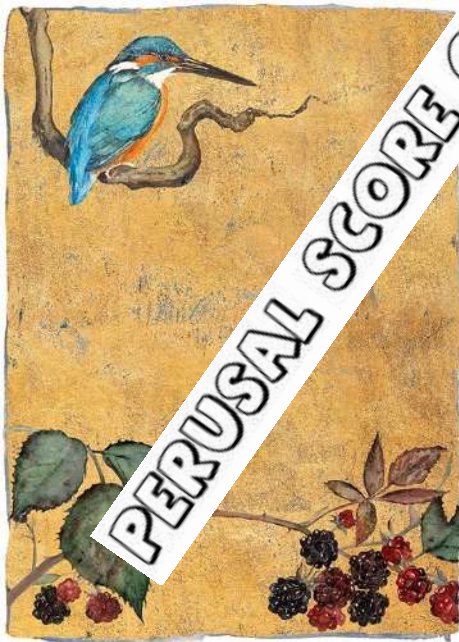
A1
stead - y wing beats thru' eve - ning light to roost.

A2
eve - ning light, thru' eve - ning light to roost.

f **ff**

molto rit.

Pno
Red.



The most recent edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary - widely used in schools across the world - was published, a sharp-eyed reader soon noticed that around forty common words concerning nature had been dropped. The words were no longer being used enough by children to merit their place in the dictionary. The list of these "lost words" included acorn, adder, bluebell, dandelion, fern, heron, kingfisher, newt, otter, and willow. Among the words taking their place were attach-ment, blog, broadband, bullet-point, cut-and-paste, and voice-mail. The news of these substitutions - the outdoor and natural being displaced by the indoor and virtual - became seen by many as a powerful sign of the growing gulf between childhood and the natural world.

In response, Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris set out to make a "spell book" that would conjure back twenty of these lost words, and the beings they name, from acorn to wren.

Morna Edmundson, Elektra Women's Choir director, decided to commission 10 composers to write 2 compositions each - 20 compositions set to the poetry of Robert Macfarlane - and a fabulous concert program was born (premiered in 2022). These pieces are available individually and also as a complete book. They can be performed with piano alone or with instrumentation; flute/piccolo, violin, cello, clarinet/bass clarinet and marimba/percussion.

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