

Bird Song

for voice (Bb4-F5), bass flute, and bass clarinet

Eliza Brown

2023

Bird Song

for voice (Bb3-F5), bass flute, and bass clarinet

Eliza Brown

2023

Duration ca. 3'

SCORE IN C

For TAK/for Clara

Text

They are stardust

They are shapeshifter

They are a bird who sings alone at night

They are a bird who sings with other birds

When dawn breaks

They gratefully rearrange their particles

(this hurts)

They rouse their brothers awake

They make an invitation

They sing

Performance notes

All

- Dynamics: hairpins with no destination dynamic are little swells within the current dynamic

Voice

- General vocal style: cabaret ballad – think “Send in the Clowns” or “Both Sides Now.”
- Glissandi last for the duration of the note, but don’t have to have a consistent rate of pitch change - more exaggerated pop glissando than even, “new-music-y” glissando.

Winds

- Repeated notes should be articulated gently, unless otherwise marked. Timbral and rhythmic variations on individual pitches are ornamental and should exist within the overall hush of the piece, not fight with it.
- Bass clarinet microtones: in mm. 16 and 31, the goal of the microtones is to approximate a glissando between their bookending notes. If the available microtone fingering(s) are awkward and don’t help those moments sound smearsy, they can be omitted or replaced by another technique or manner of playing that approximates a glissando.

Bird Song

for TAK/for Clara

Eliza Brown

adagio molto tranquillo ($\text{♩} = 56$)

p

Voice they are star - dust

Bass Flute **p** air only

Bass Clarinet in B♭ **p**

4

Voice they are shape - shif - ter (roll down)

B. Fl. **p** ord. **p** **<mp** **p** **mp** **p** **p** half air

B. Cl. **p** **mp** **p**

8

Voice they are a bird who sings a lone at night they

B. Fl. **mp** **mf** **mp** half air ord.

B. Cl. **mp** **mf** **mp** **fmp**

The musical score consists of four systems of music. System 1: Voice (G clef), Bass Flute (G clef), and Bass Clarinet in B♭ (Bass clef). The vocal line includes lyrics: 'they are star - dust'. The bass flute and bass clarinet provide harmonic support. System 2: Voice (G clef) and Bass Flute (G clef). The vocal line continues with 'shape - shif - ter' and includes dynamic markings (mp, p, <mp>, p, mp, p) and performance instructions like '(roll down)' and 'half air'. The bass flute part features rhythmic patterns with grace notes. System 3: Voice (G clef) and Bass Flute (G clef). The vocal line concludes with 'they are a bird who sings a lone at night they'. The bass flute part includes dynamics (mp, mf, mp) and performance instructions (half air, ord.). System 4: Bass Flute (G clef) and Bass Clarinet in B♭ (Bass clef). The bass flute part continues with dynamics (mp, mf, mp) and performance instructions (half air, ord.). The bass clarinet part begins with dynamic mp.

12

Voice *mf* *p*

are a bird who sings with o-ther birds when

B. Fl. *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

half air

16 *mp* *p*

Voice dawn breaks they grate-ful-ly re-ar-range their par-ti-cles this

B. Fl. pale, non vib. vib. ord.

B. Cl. *mp*

20 A (filtered white noise) (half-speech)

Voice hurts this [h] but they they

B. Fl. *p* half air non vib., airy focused (non vib.)

B. Cl. *p* ord. *mp* *p*

p *p*

24

Voice [r] they rouse

B. Fl. vib. ord.

B. Cl. half sub. timbre
air ord. continue t. tr. in rhythm:

27

Voice mp B they rouse their bro-thers a - wake they

B. Fl.

B. Cl. p mp

30

Voice pochissimo stringendo mf make an in - vi - ta - tion they sing, they sing, they

B. Fl. pochissimo piu mosso f full, Romantic

B. Cl. full, Romantic f

allargando
mp

C **meno mosso (♩ = 50)**

Voice: si - [ŋ] [m] dolce [n] [ŋ] [r] [m]

B. Fl.: **mp** **<mf** **p** dolce **p** half air

B. Cl.: **mp** **<mf** **p**

Voice: [n] [ŋ] increasingly airy tone to end

B. Fl.: **mp** **p** roll down
ord. air only

B. Cl.: **mp** **p**

June 10-12, 2023
Plainfield, IN