

Bird Song

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

Eliza Brown

2023

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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 smeary, they can be omitted or replaced by another technique or manner of playing that approximates a glissando.

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adagio molto tranquillo (♩ = 56)

1

p

Voice

they are star - dust

Bass Flute

p

Bass Clarinet in B♭

p

air only

4

Voice

they are shape - shif - ter

B. Fl.

(roll down)

ord. **p** **mp** **p** **mp** **p**

B. Cl.

p **mp** **p**

half air

8

Voice

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

B. Fl.

ord. **mp** **mf** **mp**

B. Cl.

mp **mf** **mp** **fmp**

half air ord.

12

Voice *mf* *p*
are a bird who sings with o-ther birds when

B. Fl. *mf* *p*
half air

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

16

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

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

B. Cl. *mp*

20 **A**

Voice (filtered white noise) (half-speech)
hurts this [h] but they they

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

B. Cl. *p* *p*

24

Voice

[r] they rouse

B. Fl.

vib. ord.

half air sub. ord. timbre

continue t. tr. in rhythm:

mp *p*

B. Cl.

mp

27

Voice

mp **B**

they rouse their bro-thers a - wake they

B. Fl.

p *mp*

B. Cl.

p *mp*

30

Voice

mf *f*

make an in - vi - ta - tion they sing, they sing, they

B. Fl.

mf *f* full, Romantic

B. Cl.

mf *f* full, Romantic

pochissimo stringendo pochissimo piu mosso

allargando C meno mosso (♩ = 50)

34 *mp* *p dolce* *mp*

Voice

si - [ŋ] [m] [n] [ŋ] [r] [m]

B. Fl. *mp* *p dolce* half air

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

39

Voice

[n] [ŋ]

increasingly airy tone to end

B. Fl. *mp* *p* roll down

B. Cl. ord. *mp* *p* air only

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