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JULIANA HALL

WINTER WINDOWS

7 Songs for Baritone and Piano

on Poems by
Walter de la Mare,
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
Edna St. Vincent Millay,
and Percy Bysshe Shelley

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WINTER WINDOWS was commissioned by the Schubert Club of Saint Paul, Minnesota for baritone David Malis, who along with pianist Heather MacLaughlin premiered the song cycle at the McKnight Theatre in Saint Paul, Minnesota on Friday, February 2, 1990.

Cover design by David Sims.



WINTER NIGHT

Pile high the hickory and the light Log of chestnut struck by the blight. Welcome-in the winter night.

The day has gone in hewing and felling, Sawing and drawing wood to the dwelling For the night of talk and story-telling.

These are the hours that give the edge To the blunted axe and the bent wedge, Straighten the saw and lighten the sledge.

Here are question and reply, And the fire reflected in the thinking eye. So peace, and let the bob-cat cry.

— Edna St. Vincent Millay

A SONG

A widow bird sate mourning for her love
Upon a wintry bough;
The frozen wind crept on above,
The freezing stream below.
There was no leaf upon the forest bare,
No flower upon the ground,
And little motion in the air
Except the mill-wheel's sound.

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

THE SNOWFLAKE

Before I melt,
Come, look at me!
This lovely icy filigree!
Of a great forest
In one night
I make a wilderness
Of white:
By skyey cold
Of crystals made,
All softly, on
Your finger laid,
I pause, that you
My beauty see:
Breathe, and I vanish
Instantly.

— Walter de la Mare

THE SNOW-MAN

What shape is this in cowl of snow? Stiff broom and icy hat? A saffron moon, half-hidden, stares — But what is she staring at? The knocker dangles on the door, But stark as tree and post He blankly eyes the bright green paint, Is silent as a ghost. But wait till belfry midnight strike, And up to the stars is tossed Shrill cockcrow! — then, he'll gadding go — And, at his heels, Jack Frost: Broom over shoulder, away he'll go, Finger-tips tingling, nose aglow, Dancing and yodelling through the snow, And, at his heels, Jack Frost!

— Walter de la Mare

LULLY

Nay, ninny, shut those sleepy eyes,
 The robin from his spray
Long since to his cold winter roost
 Has flown away.
Hush, now, and fold those gentle hands;
 Across the fields the snow
Has hidden the bleating sheep from sight,
 And heaped the hedges through.
Wail not so shrill, thou tiny voice;
 These shadows mean no harm;
'Tis but the flames this wintry night
 To keep thee safe and warm;
Lully, and rest then, pretty soul,
 Safe on thy mother's arm.

WINTER EVENING

Over the wintry fields the snow drifts; falling, falling; Its frozen burden filling each hollow. And hark; Out of the naked woods a wild bird calling, On the starless verge of the dark!

— Walter de la Mare

— Walter de la Mare

WOODS IN WINTER

When winter winds are piercing chill, And through the hawthorn blows the gale, With solemn feet I tread the hill, That overbrows the lonely vale. O'er the bare upland, and away Through the long reach of desert woods. The embracing sunbeams chastely play, And gladden these deep solitudes. Where, twisted round the barren oak, The summer vine in beauty clung, And summer winds the stillness broke, The crystal icicle is hung. Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs Pour out the river's gradual tide, Shrilly the skater's iron rings, And voices fill the woodland side. Alas! how changed from the fair scene, When birds sang out their mellow lay, And winds were soft, and woods were green, And the song ceased not with the day! But still wild music is abroad, Pale, desert woods! within your crowd; And gathering winds, in hoarse accord, Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud. Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear Has grown familiar with your song; I hear it in the opening year, I listen, and it cheers me long.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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For my father, Harold Burton Hall

Winter Windows

for Baritone and Piano



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Walter de la Mare Juliana Hall (b. 1958) Andante (J = 42)**6** 8 mp* Led. * Led. * Led. * Led. * Led. Led. * Led. mp Nay, nin - ny, those sleep - y eyes, p * Led. * Led. Led. * Led. * 6 mpThe * Led. * Led. Led. * Led. *

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