

Alicia Castillo

To a Child

two sopranos, guitar, and cello

4'

For Seriana and Mariah Castillo

2020

Notes

To a Child was written in the Spring of 2020 for the Arizona Women's Collaborative Cycle II Concert under the theme "Sisterhood: Relationships Between Women."

The initial search for text was ended as soon as I came across Sophie Jewett's poem, *To a Child*. Reading the text immediately reminded me of my love for my sisters. My sisters have been great influences in my life; I have always looked up to my older sister, Seriana, for strength and wisdom and I always hope to be there to do the same for my younger sister, Mariah. Sisters can often be motherly towards one another and this poem resonated for me in that way. It spoke to me of excitement and child-like wonder, and I wanted to capture that feeling when setting the text.

This piece is also meant to be warm and sweet; to evoke the safety and security of a lullaby. The text alternates between the two sopranos, extending a sister relationship to them, as well as the cellist and guitarist who also converse in their own way throughout the piece.

-Alicia Castillo

To a Child
Poem by Sophie Jewett (1910)

The leaves talked in the twilight, dear;

Hearken the tale they told:

How in some far-off place and year,

Before the world grew old,

I was a dreaming forest tree,

You were a wild, sweet bird

Who sheltered at the heart of me

Because the north wind stirred;

How, when the chiding gale was still,

When peace fell soft on fear,

You stayed one golden hour to fill

My dream with singing, dear.

To-night the self-same songs are sung

The first green forest heard;

My heart and the gray world grow young—

To shelter you, my bird.

To a child

Text by Sophie Jewett

Music by Alicia Castillo

$\text{♩} = 75$
Lightly

mf

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Guitar
Cello

The leaves talked in the twi-light, dear;

Resonant
mf
pizz.
mf

4

S.
S.
Gtr.
Vc.

Heark - en the tale they told:
How in some__ far off place and year, Be-fore the world grew old__

mf

7

S.
S.
Gtr.
Vc.

I was a dream-ing for est tree__ Who
You were a wild__ sweet bird

subito p — *mf*
arco
subito p — *mf*
3

10

S. shel-tered at the heart of me

S. shel-tered at the heart of me Be-cause the North wind stirred — *dolce*

Gtr. *dolce*

Vc. *dolce*

14

S. How when the chid-ing gale

S. when the chid-ing gale

Gtr.

Vc.

19

S. — was still, How when the peace fell soft — on fear, You stayed one

S. — was still, when the peace fell soft — on fear, You stayed one gold-en hour

Gtr. *p*

Vc. *p*

6 23

S. gold-en hour to fill To-

S. *p* to fill My dream with sing-ing, dear.

Gtr. *p*

Vc. *p*

28

S. night the self same songs are sung The first green for-est heard_

S. *mf* My heart and the gray world grow young

Gtr. *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf* arco

31

S. *f* To shel-ter you my bird_

S.

Gtr. *f* *p* pizz.

Vc. *f* *p*

37

S. My heart and the gray world grow young to shel-ter you my

S. heart and the gray world grow young shel-ter you my

Gtr. *mf*
arco

Vc. *mf*

42

S. bird my bird my bird my

S. bird my bird my bird my

Gtr.

Vc.

46

S. *rit.* bird shel - ter you my bird

S. to shel - ter you my bird *A tempo*

Gtr. *p*

Vc. *rit.* *A tempo* *p*

8

50

S.
S.
Gtr.
Vc.

No rit.

No rit.

Detailed description: This musical score is for a vocal and instrumental ensemble. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for Soprano (S.), both containing whole rests. The third staff is for Guitar (Gtr.), featuring a complex rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The bottom staff is for Violoncello (Vc.), providing a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line. The instruction 'No rit.' is written above the guitar staff in two locations.