PROGRAM NOTES

She Who Continues was commissioned by Sparks & Wiry Cries and was originally written for soprano Jennifer Holloway and pianist Kathleen Kelly. Many thanks to Sparks & Wiry Cries for the opportunity. This set was premiered in New York City in Cary Hall at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music on January 20th, 2019, as part of the final concert in the 2019 SongSlam Festival. The concert title was "Me Too: Pathways to Healing." Judy Grahn's poetry addresses how society treats women and how women prove resilient. This song cycle sets three of Grahn's poems: "The Ice Queen," "The enemies of She Who call her various names," and "She Who Continues." Judy Grahn has graciously granted the rights to user her poetry for this project. Many thanks.

Natalie Draper

TEXT

I. The Ice Queen

She lives on a glass mountain She sleeps in a fishbowl She's wrapped in Saran Wrap She's silent under her bell jar. She's locked in her tower of glass.

She's Queen of the Ice Queens. She feels none of her feelings. She acts none of her actions. She speaks none of her insights. She hears only the crash of her own cold pulse and the words: it's getting worse and worse and worse.

II. The enemies of She Who call her various names

The enemies of She Who call her various names a whore, a whore, a sishwife a cunt a harlot a harlot a pussy a doxie a tail a fishwife a whore a hole a slit a cunt a bitch a slut a slit a hole a whore a hole a vixen/ a piece of ass/ a dame—filly—mare dove—cow—pig—chick—cat—kitten—bird dog—dish/ a dumb blonde you black bitch—you white bitch—you brown bitch—you yellow bitch—you fat bitch—you stupid bitch—you stinking bitch you little bitch – you old bitch – cheap bitch – a high class bitch—a 2 bit whore—a 2 dollar whore—a ten dollar whore—a million-dollar mistress

a hole a slut a cunt a slit a cut a slash a hole a slit a piece of shit, a piece of shit, a piece of shit

III. She Who Continues

She Who Continues
She Who has a being
named She Who is a being
named She Who carries her own name. She Who turns things over.
She Who marks her own way, gathering. She Who makes her own difference.
She Who differs, gathering her own events. She Who gathers, gaining
She Who carries her own ways, gathering She Who waits,
bearing She Who cares for her
own name, carrying She Who
bears, gathering She Who cares
for She Who gathers her own ways, carrying
the names of She Who gather and gain,
singing:

I am the woman, the woman
The woman – I am the first person.
and the first person is She Who is the first person to

and the first person is She Who is the first person to She Who is the first person to no other. There is no other first person.

She Who floods like a river and like a river continues
She Who continues

—Judy Grahn

Natalie Draper (b. 1985)

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Catalog No. 9141

She Who Continues

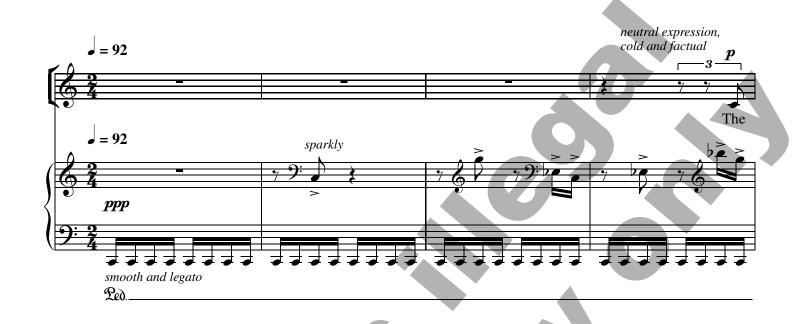
A Song Cycle for Soprano and Piano



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II. The enemies of She Who call her various names











III. She Who Continues



