

## 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 use 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 fishwife 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  
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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# She Who Continues

A Song Cycle for Soprano and Piano

Judy Grahn

Natalie Draper

## I. The Ice Queen

Moderate (♩ = 96)

Soprano

Piano

*pp*

*cold, like bells*

*ped.*

6

*expressively*

*p* *mp*

She — lives

11

*mp* *mp*

on a glass — moun — tain —

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano in 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The piano part begins with a *pp* dynamic and includes a *ped.* (pedal) marking. The lyrics are: 'She lives on a glass mountain'. The piano accompaniment features a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

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16 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

She sleeps in a fish - bowl

21 *mp* *f*

She's wrapped in Sa-ran

*p* *pp* *mp*

26 *mf* *mp*

wrap She's si - lent un - der her bell jar. She's

*p* *mp*

31 *f* *mf* *f* *p*

locked in her tow - er of glass, she's

*p* *mf*

## II. The enemies of She Who call her various names

♩ = 92

neutral expression,  
cold and factual *p*

The

♩ = 92

*ppp*

sparkly

smooth and legato  
*Ped.*

5

en - e - mies \_ of She Who \_ call her va - ri - ous \_

(*Ped.*)

10

still neutral, but as if you're tasting  
the flavor of each insult in your mouth

*mp* *p*

names \_ a whore, \_ a

*gliss.*

(*Ped.*)

The image shows a page of a musical score for a piece titled "II. The enemies of She Who call her various names". The score is in 2/4 time and features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) includes a vocal line with the word "The" and a piano accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes. The second system (measures 5-8) includes the vocal line with the lyrics "en - e - mies \_ of She Who \_ call her va - ri - ous \_" and a piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) includes the vocal line with the lyrics "names \_ a whore, \_ a" and a piano accompaniment. Performance instructions include "neutral expression, cold and factual" (piano), "sparkly" (piano), "smooth and legato" (piano), and "still neutral, but as if you're tasting the flavor of each insult in your mouth" (piano). Dynamics include *ppp*, *mp*, and *p*. A glissando is marked in the vocal line. Pedal markings (*Ped.*) are present at the end of the first and third systems.

15

*mp* *p* *gliss.*

whore, a fish - wife a cunt

(Ped.)

20

*mf* *mp* *mf* 3

a har - lot a har - lot a puss - y

*p* *pp* *p*

(Ped.)

25

*p* *mf* *mp* *gliss.*

a whore, a whore, a fish - wife a

*ppp* *p* *pp*

(Ped.)

30

*mf* 3 3 *mp* *mf* *mp*

cunt a har - lot a har - lot a puss - - y a

*p* *pp* *p* *pp*

(Ped.)

51 *f* *mf*

har - lot a puss - y a dox - ie a

*mp* *p*

55 *mp*

tail a fish - wife a whore a hole a

*pp*

59 *pp* *p*

slit a cunt a

*ppp* *p*

63 *gliss.*

bitch a slut a slit a hole a whore a

*p* *pp*

## III. She Who Continues

Moderato (♩ = 84)

*mp* *mp*

She Who Con - tin - ues.

Moderato (♩ = 84)

*pp* *p* *pp*

Ped.

4 *mp* *mf*

She Who has a be - ing named She Who is a

*p* *pp* *p*

7 *cresc. poco a poco*

be - ing named She Who car - ries her own

*pp* *p*

22 *mp*

gain - ing. She Who car - ries her own ways, gath - er - ing

*p* *pp*

25 *mp* *mp*

She Who waits, bear - ing She Who cares for

*p* *pp* *p*

28 *mp* *mp*

her own name, car - ry - ing She Who bears, gath - er - ing

*pp* *p* *pp*

31 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

She Who cares for She Who gath - ers her own ways,

*p* *pp* *p* *pp cresc. poco a poco*