

## Program Notes

Adam Christensen's poem "The Harper's Song" imagines the music of harps warming the winter's night. The music features a modally inflected melody evocative of English folk-music, accompanied by the piano which imitates the arpeggiations of a harp.

### Text

When harpers once in wooden hall  
A shining chord did strike,  
Their songs like arrows pierced the soul  
Of great and low alike.

Aglow by hearth and candle flame  
From burning branch or ember,  
The mist of all their music sang,  
As if to ask in wonder:

Is there a moment quite as keen  
Or memory as bright  
As light and fire and music sweet  
To warm the winter's night?

Adam Christensen (b. 1951)

### *Available editions*

#### Mistletoe

Choral Score	9156
Cello Part	9156A

#### **The Harper's Song**

<b>Choral Score</b>	<b>9157</b>
Cello Part	9157A

#### Two Winter Scenes

Piano/Vocal Solo Score	9169
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### **David Conte (b. 1955)**

For biographical information visit:  
[www.davidconte.net](http://www.davidconte.net)

Catalog No. 9157

Commissioned by the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco,  
Susan McMane, conductor

# The Harper's Song

from *Two Winter Scenes*

SSAA Chorus, Violoncello, and Piano, or Harp\*

Adam Christensen  
(1951–2021)

David Conte (b. 1955)

**Larghetto espressivo** ♩ = 60

Violoncello

**Larghetto espressivo** ♩ = 60

Piano (or Harp)

*p*

D C B $\flat$  | E $\flat$  F G A

*sed.* \* *sed.* \*

**Just a bit faster** ♩ = 66

5

*mp* *mf* *mp*

**Just a bit faster** ♩ = 66

*mp* *p* l.h. *r.h.*

Ab

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system, marked 'Larghetto espressivo' with a tempo of ♩ = 60, features a Violoncello part in 3/4 time and a Piano (or Harp) part in 3/4 time. The piano part includes a melodic line with notes D, C, B-flat, E-flat, F, G, and A, and a bass line with sustained notes and triplets. The second system, marked 'Just a bit faster' with a tempo of ♩ = 66, continues the Violoncello and Piano parts in 4/4 time. It includes dynamic markings such as mp, mf, and p, and specific performance instructions like 'l.h.' and 'r.h.' for the piano part. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Copyrighted Material' is overlaid across the score.

\*Harpists may choose to leave out octave duplications and play at a slightly slower tempo to avoid string buzzes.

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8 *molto rit.* **Tempo I** ♩ = 60

Vlc. *mf*

S *mp*

A *mp*

When

*molto rit.* **Tempo I** ♩ = 60

*mf* *l.h.* *mf* *r.h.*

11 *p* *pp* *mf* *mf*

harp - ers once in wood - en hall a shin - ing chord did strike,

harp - ers once in wood - en hall a shin - ing chord did strike,

*p* *cresc.* *mf*

15

*mp*

*p* *mf*

— Their — songs like — ar - rows pierced the soul Of

*p* *mf*

— Their — songs like — ar - rows pierced the soul — Of

*mp*

*F#* *F#*

18

*mf* *mp*

great and low a - like. Of great — and —

*p* *mp*

great and low a - like, of great — and

*mp*

*l.h.* *mp*

*Eb* *Bb* *Db | Ab*

*molto rit.*

**A tempo** ♩ = 60

22

Bass clef staff with dynamics: *pp*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*

Treble clef staff with lyrics: low a - like. *p*

Treble clef staff with lyrics: low a - like. *p*

*molto rit.*

**A tempo** ♩ = 60

Piano accompaniment with dynamics: *mp*, *mf dim.*, *pp*. Includes chord symbols: Bb | A4, l.h., Ab.

26

Bass clef staff with dynamics: *f*

Two empty treble clef staves.

Piano accompaniment with dynamics: *mp*, *f*. Includes chord symbols: D4, A4.

29

*mp* *pp*

*3*

*unis. mp*

A - glow by — hearth and can - dle flame From

*mp delicato* *p*

33

*mp* *mf*

*mf*

The — mist of all their —

burn - ing branch or — em - ber, — The —

*mf*

**Faster, animated** ♩ = 66

*cresc.* *mf*

E♭ B♭ B♭|E♭

**Faster, animated** ♩ = 66

*3*

37 (b)

mu - sic sang, their mus - ic sang As  
mist of all their mu - sic sang As

*poco marcato*

E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F $\sharp$

40

if to ask in won - der, in  
if to ask in won - der, in

*rit.*

*cresc.* *f* *rit.*

Broader ♩ = 54

43

*ff*

*ff*

won - der:

*ff*

won - der:

Broader ♩ = 54

*ff*

46 L'istesso tempo (♩ = 54)

*p* *mp*

L'istesso tempo (♩ = 54)

*p*

*l.h.*

3

Db | Ab



A bit slower ♩ = 52  
*freely, like a recitative*

*poco rit.*

49

*unis. mp*  
 Is —

A bit slower ♩ = 52  
*freely, like a recitative*

*poco rit.*

*l.h.* *r.h.*  
*l.h.* *r.h.*  
 Gb *l.h.*

*poco accel.*

52

*pp* *p*

there a — mo - ment quite as keen Or mem - o - ry as —

*mp*  
 Or mem - o - ry as —

*poco accel.*

Faster, animated ♩ = 66

*rit.*

55

*mp* *mf* 3 3

*mf*

bright, as bright As

*mf*

bright, as bright As

Faster, animated ♩ = 66

*rit.*

*p* *l.h.* *mf*

D<sub>4</sub> | G<sub>4</sub> A<sub>4</sub> B<sub>4</sub> E<sub>b4</sub>

Tempo I ♩ = 60

58

*mp*

light and fire and mu-sic sweet To warm the win-ter's

light and fire and mu-sic sweet To warm the win-ter's

Tempo I ♩ = 60

*mp*

F<sub>#4</sub> B<sub>b4</sub> | F<sub>4</sub> E<sub>b4</sub>

61 *molto rit.*

*mf* *mp* *pp*

*p* *mp*

night, to warm the win - ter's

night, to warm the win - ter's

*mf* *mp* *molto rit.*

*p* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*l.h.* *mp*

*Bb* *Db | Ab*

65 **Just a bit slower than Tempo I** ♩ = 54

*p* *mp*

*p* *mp*

night,

night,

**Just a bit slower than Tempo I** ♩ = 54

*p* *mp*

*Bb* *Db | Ab*

*Red.* *Red.*

68

*p* *pp*

*p* *pp*

the win - ter's night.

*p* *pp*

the win - ter's night.

*pp*

B♭ | E♭

3

\*

September 1–10, 2018  
San Francisco  
4:00

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