

# **Magic Strings (1992)**

## **for Treble Voices and Piano**

*for Robert Geary and the Piedmont Choir*

Accidentals apply only to immediate pitches, excepting tied or repeated notes.

All whispered / spoken sounds must project. Dynamics should be adjusted according to the room, number of voices, etc.

Solo lines may be sung by individual singers (especially in smaller choirs), but can effectively be sung by small groups of voices as well.

Piano pizzicato: pluck string(s) behind dampers toward back of case.

Piano harmonics: normal notehead indicates key to play, diamond-shaped notehead indicates sounding pitch.

The pianist will need a 15" metal ruler with a strip of cork glued on the back. Such rulers are usually available at art supply or drafting supply stores.

***Duration: 5 - 6 minutes***

*A Piece for Magic Strings*  
(*A shamaness exorcizes baleful creatures*)

*On the western hills the sun sets, the eastern hills darken,  
Horses blown by the whirlwind tread the clouds.  
From colored lute and plain pipes, crowd faint notes:  
Her flowered skirt rustles as she steps in the autumn dust.  
When the wind brushes the cassia leaves and a cassia seed drops  
The blue raccoon weeps blood and the cold fox dies.  
Dragons painted on the ancient wall with tails of inlaid gold  
The God of Rain rides into the autumn pool;  
And the owl a hundred years old, which changed to a goblin of the trees,  
Hears the sound of laughter as green flames start up inside its nest.*

*Li Ho (791 - 817)  
trans. by A. C. Graham*

for Robert Geary and the Piedmont Choir

# Magic Strings (1992)

Mark Winges

expectant, shimmering,  $\text{♩} = 52 - 60$

sounding pitch:

Piano

stop (touch) string of notated pitch to produce desired sounding pitch

sim. ----- sounding D/E -----

*sfz* *f* *mp* *ff*

con pedal I, sempre . . .

Piano

played (on keys)  $\text{♩}^3$  sounding:

played pizz.

*f* *fff* *p* *ff* *f* *ff*

Piano

strum (gliss.) on strings inside piano:

15ma ----->

ord. *ff* (played on keys)

pizz. press keys silently without sounding

(pedal I)

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10

Solo Voice

S

S

A

Piano

*ppp*

*sf*

pizz.

Ped. I

12

Solo Voice

*mp*

on the west - ern hills the

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*f* *mp* *p* *ff*

*mf*

sounding:

played (on keys)

16 *pp*

Solo Voice

sun sets

S *mp*  
sun sets mmm sun sets mmm

S *whispered, p*  
sun sets sun sets sun sets sun sets

A *mp*  
a a sun

Piano

"stop" by laying left hand sideways across strings (between dampers and pin block)

19

Solo Voice

S *p* The east - ern hills *ff mp* dark - en

S *p* The east - ern hills *ff mp* dark - en

A *p* sets The east - ern hills *ff mp* dark - en

Piano

*stopped* *mp* *f* *pp* *pizz.* *sf*

with forward motion, ♩ = 120 - 132

22

Solo Voice

S *p* niente

S *p* niente

A *p* niente

nnn

with forward motion, ♩ = 120 - 132

Piano

place a 15" metal ruler across strings, cork side down

*p* *mp* *pp*

approximate range

Pedal I (sempre)

25

Solo Voice

S

S

A

Piano

*poco a poco* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

28

1

Solo

2

Voices

3

S

A

Piano

*con pedal I ad lib.*

*f* *ff* *subito p*

Hors - es blown by the whirl-wind tread the

Hors - es blown by the whirl-wind tread the

*pp*

31

*pp*

1 Solo

clouds

2 Voices

*pp*

clouds

3

*pp*

clouds

S

*pp*

clouds

*niente*

*mp*

From

A

*pp*

clouds

*niente*

*mp*

From

Piano

*mp*

*p secco*

*mp*

(senza pedal!)