

Angela Elizabeth Slater

As if in memory
for flute and piano

As if in memory for flute and piano (2022)

As if in memory has been written for flautist Sophia Tegart and pianist Michael Sergow.

The piece ties together the memory of birds songs we heard more clearly during the initial lockdown periods of the pandemic during 2020 and 2021. Hearing birdsong is a shared phenomenon, experienced separately for many during those initial stages.

Through this piece I bring together the aural landscape of the UK, focusing particularly on birds local to where I live in Staffordshire, with the aural landscape of Washington state where Sophia Tegart is based. I create an aural space where UK birdsong meets and interacts with US birdsong, something that would not exist in the real world; a tapestry of the sounds we could hear whilst not being able to be in a shared space.

The piece is divided into five main movements that are punctuated by short musical bookmarks, returning to an unknown birdsong that I kept hearing throughout the pandemic and heard again whilst writing this work on a Britten-Pears Creative Retreat near the Red House in Aldeburgh, Suffolk. This bird song may be the same bird as one of the other birds I have represented and, perhaps, a keen-eared birdsong expert will be able to help me identify this bird.

In each of the other movements a UK bird is paired with a US bird and a new aural space in which they co-exist and interact is created, sometimes blurred by memory and other times more crystalline in the representation of the birdsong and calls.

Bookmark I - *Unknown Bird*

I. A whisper in the branches - *The Great tit and chipping sparrow*

Bookmark II - *Unknown Bird - as if in memory*

II. As if in memory - *The Blue tit and Yellow Warbler*

Bookmark III - *Unknown bird and Wood Pewee*

III. Cloudlight wings - *The Goldfinch and Spotted Tawhee*

Bookmark IV - *The Robin - as if in memory (UK and US Robins)*

IV. In the dusk of daybreak *The Songthrush and Blackheaded Grosbeak*

Bookmark V - *Unknown bird and the Goldfinch*

V. As one tilting across the sky - *The Blackbird and Wood Pewee*

c.12 mins

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PERUSAL SCORE

As if in memory

written for Sophia Tagart

Bookmark I - Unknown bird

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Flute

$\text{♩} = 68$

p 3 3 3 *mp* *pp*

Piano

$\text{♩} = 68$

con Ped. ad lib. *pp*

I. A whisper in the branches

The Great tit and the Chipping Sparrow

Fl.

$\text{♩} = 92$

f pp *f p* *f p* *mf* *f* *pp* *ff*³

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 92$

f pp *f p* *f p* *mf* *f* *pp* *ff*³

secco *mf*

Fl.

5

p 3 3 3 *f* *pp* 3 3 *f* *p*

Pno.

p 3 3 3 *f* *pp* 3 3 *f* *p*

8

Fl. *ff* ³ *mp* ³ ³ ³ *f* *p* ⁵

Pno. *ff* ³ *p* ³ ³ *f* *p* ⁵
con a poco Ped. ad lib.

11

Fl. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p*

13

Fl. *mf* ⁵ *f* *p* ³ *f* *p* *sf* *fp* ³ *fp* *ord.* *flz.* *ord.* *mf* ³

Pno. *mf* ⁵ *f* *p* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Fl. $\text{♩} = 56$

Ppp *tr* mp

Pno. $\text{♩} = 56$

Ppp

Fl. 4

Ppp

Pno. *p* Pppp

II. As if in memory
Bluetit and Yellow Warbler

Fl. 1 $\text{♩} = 92$

Ppp *tr*

Pno. $\text{♩} = 92$

Ppp 7 6 5 3 7 6

3 (tr) *mp*

Fl. *tr*

Pno. *ppp* 5 3 7 6 5 3

5 (tr) *mf* 5 3 *f* 3 *pp*

Fl. *mf* *f* *pp*

Pno. 3 3

7 *flz.* *ord.* *mf* *pp* 3 5 3 *ff* *pp* 5

Fl. *flz.* *ord.* *mf* *pp* *ff* *pp*

Pno. *ppp* 7 6 5 *mp*

III. Cloudlight wings

Goldfinch and Spotted Towhee

1 $\text{♩} = 84$

Fl. *f* 3 *p* 6 *f* 6

Pno. $\text{♩} = 84$

4

Fl. 3 3 3 *p* 6 *f* 6 *p* 3 *f*

Pno.

7

Fl. *mf* *f* *pp* 3 5 *p* 5 6 flz.

Pno.

12 10 ord.

Fl. *ff* 3

Pno. *sf* *mp* *sf*

Fl. 6 6

Pno. 6 6 3

Fl. 3 3 3 6 6 3

Pno. 3 3 6 3 6

Fl. 3 3 3 3

Pno. 3 3 3

13

Fl. *ff* ⁷ *p* *f* ³ *pp* *mf* ³ *pp* *molto rit.*

Pno. *mf* *pp* ³ *mp* ³ *ppp* *molto rit.*

IV. In the dusk of daybreak
 Songthrush and Blackheaded Grosbeak

1

Fl. *mf* *fpp* *fpp* *ff* ³

Pno. *mf* *pp* ³ *mp* *f* *con Ped. ad lib.* *mp* ³ *Ped.*

♩ = 84

4

Fl. *mf* *f* *p* *f* ³ ³ ³

Pno. *mf* *f* *p* *f* *secco* ³ ³ ³ *f*

7

Fl. *ff* *pp* *mp* *f*

Pno. *p* *con a poco Ped. ad lib.*

9

Fl. *ff* *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *mp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

11

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

(b) 2. *8vb*

V. As one tilting across the sky

Blackbird and Wood Powee

♩ = 80

1

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p* *f*

Pno. *p*

5

Fl. *mf* *pp* *ff* *mp* *f*

Pno. *p* *pp* *f* *mf* *p*

7

Fl. *f* *pp*

Pno. *f* *p* *pp*

9

Fl. *f* *pp* *mf* *f* *pp*

Pno. *f* *p* *pp* *f* *p* *pp*

11

Fl. *f* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *f* *pp* *pp* *f* *p*

13

Fl. *mf* *mp* *f* *p* *f*

Pno. *p* *pp* *sf* *mf* *p*