

# Appalachian Sketchbook

Three mountain-songs for mezzo-soprano and piano

Preview Score, not for performance

Walker Williams, composer  
Violet Wynn, poet

### Performance Notes:

In all three movements, the specific syllables used in the vocalise sections are left to the discretion of the performer.

### The Moon:

Throughout this movement, accidentals apply only to the note they immediately precede. Both voice and piano can move freely, using the written rhythms as a guideline more than a rule. The grace notes should be relaxed; at no point should the music feel rushed.

### Golden Leaves:

Starting in m. 33 and thereafter in the movement, the vocalist may choose to add embellishments within the style, either in addition to or in place of those written.

In the improvisatory section (mm 63-76) the vocalist and pianist may improvise over the given chords, repeating the section several times, as desired; the singer may sing the vocal cue line the first time and improvise thereafter, or ignore the cue line entirely, at their discretion. Alternately, the singer may choose not to improvise, and instead sing the vocal cue line, ignoring the repeat and performing the section once only.

Starting in m. 110, for ease of performance, the vocalist may improvise similar syllables, rather than adhering to those written.

-Walker Williams

### Notes on the Text:

The intent of each poem is to capture the essence of an individual moment as a textual sketch, capturing the scenery as well as the emotional state of the speaker into a complete image. Each poem depicts a specific scene that has some significance to me.

Black Mountain is a scene viewed from a lookout point in the Black Mountains of North Carolina. The first real snow of winter blows a light dusting of snow around, and the clouds cast deep shadows across the mountains and valleys. The Moon was written during the 2016 snowstorm that dumped several feet of snow on most of the area. Looking out my kitchen window over the gently rolling snow cast in the light of the full moon, a sense of longing came over me, like a memory from another lifetime. Golden Leaves recalls a walking meditation where fall leaves fell like rain, as well as a particular maple tree whose leaves danced in the wind, casting light and shadows on each other.

-Violet Wynn

# Appalachian Sketchbook

Three Mountain Songs for Mezzo-Soprano

Preview Score, not for performance

## I. Black Mountain

Violet Wynn

Walker Williams

1 **Bright and Dancing** (♩. = c. 70) *mp*

Voice

Piano

*mp* 3

6

- flakes drift drift and gust in the

11 *mf*

chill breeze a-mong

*mf* 3

16

cloud shadows and sun-mottled mountains

Preview Score, not for performance

21

*f*

*ppp*

26

*mp*

Snow-flakes drift drift and

31

*mf*

gust\_ in the chill breeze\_ while

Preview Score, not for performance

35

*f*

rho-do-den - drons and moun-tain pines\_ sing\_

39

*p*

*f*

*p*

sing\_ their joy - ful song\_ in

44

*mp*

4  
coun-ter-point with the wind

coun-ter-point with the

wind

*p* 3 3 *mp* 3 3 3 3 3 3

49

*f* Joyfully

Vocalize: \* ya da da da dam ba da da da dam ya da da da dam ba da da da dam

Preview Score, not for performance

*f* 3 3 3 3

\* sing provided syllables or freely substitute similar syllables

53

*p*

*f*

ya da da da da va da da da

ya da da da da va da da da

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

58

*f*

ya d'n da va dat ba d'n da va da ya d'n da va da va da va

62

*p*

*f*

ba d'n da va da ya da va da

Preview Score, not for performance

67

*mp legato*

*f*

fa la la la la fa la la la la fa la la la la fa la la la la ba d'n da va da



6

73

*p*

*f*

ya d'n da va da      ba d'n da va da      ya d'n da va da

Preview Score, not for performance

78

*p*

ba d'n da va da      ya d'n da va da      ba d'n da va da va da ya da va

81

*f*

da

86 *mp* *mp* *p*

da ya da va dam da ya da va dam da va da va dam

Preview Score, not for performance

92 *pp*

da va da va dam da ya da va dat da ya da va

95 *f* *fp* *ff*

da ba d'n da ya da va da!

# II. The Moon

Violet Wynn

Walker Williams

## 1 Tranquil and Serene (♩ = c. 56)

Musical score for the first section of 'The Moon'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*, and a *with light pedal* instruction. There are triplets in both the vocal and piano parts.

freely flowing, use written rhythms only as a guideline

Preview Score, not for performance

Musical score for the second section of 'The Moon'. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a grace note marked with an asterisk (\*). The piano part includes dynamic markings *pp* and *n*. The lyrics are: "The moon bathes fresh snow in blue and silver light".

\*vocal entrances and lines should be very free and fluid, the written rhythms are only a guideline  
grace notes should be relaxed, never rushed

Musical score for the third section of 'The Moon'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes dynamic markings *p* and *mp*, and triplets in both the vocal and piano parts.

4

*p* *mf*

al - - - though it is beau - ti - ful

*p* *p*

Preview Score, not for performance

5

*mp* *p*

I wish it would not shine so

*mp* *n*

6

3

*unmetered, quasi-recitative*

7



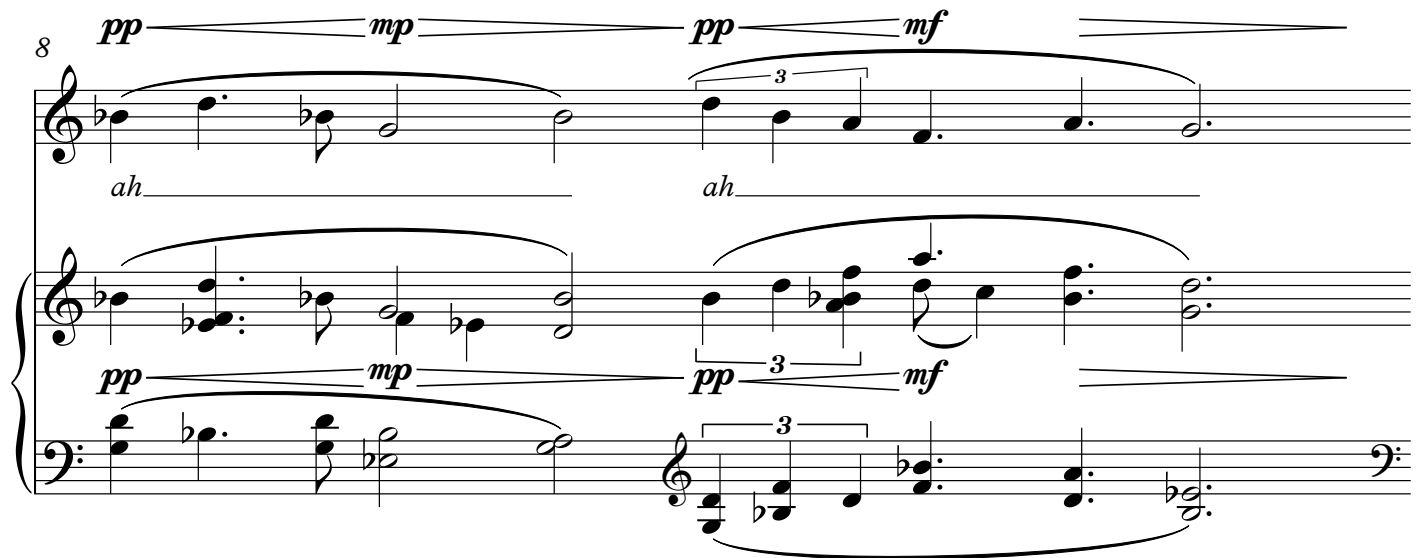
then I would not have to see the dark - ness so clear - ly

**Preview Score, not for performance**

*p*

*L.V.*

8



*pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

*ah* *ah*

*pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

9



*pp* *p* *pp*

*ah* *ah*

*pp* *p* *pp*

# III. Golden Leaves

Violet Wynn

Walker Williams

1 **Delicate, but rhythmic** (♩ = c. 150)

*p*

sung casually, with a slight pop/folk feel

Gol - - - den

*pp* smooth and flowing

with pedal

Preview Score, not for performance

5

*mp*

leaves rain - - - ing

9

*p*

on an

12

13

o - - cean of grass *mp*

Preview Score, not for performance

17

*rit.* . . . . . *a tempo*

*mp grooving!* *sim.*

22

28

*mp freely*

Gol -

Preview Score, not for performance

use these embellishments, or improvise similar ornamentation

34

den leaves rain - -

38

*mf*

ing Oh



42 *mf* *mp*

on an o - - cean of grass

46 rit. . . . . a tempo *mf*

the bal - ance I

Preview Score, not for performance

51

seek Danc - - ing on aut-umn leaves

57

in sha - dow and light

Preview Score, not for performance

63 *p* Slower, relaxed (♩ = c. 130)

Gol - den leaves rain -

68

ing on an

accel.

73

o - - cean of grass

(8)

This block contains the musical notation for measures 73 through 76. It features a vocal line in a soprano clef with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The lyrics are "o - - cean of grass". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in a treble clef and the left hand in a bass clef. The piano part includes a series of eighth-note patterns in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

77

a tempo 1 (♩ = c. 150)

*mf*

the bal - ance I seek

Preview Score, not for performance

*mf*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 77 through 81. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "the bal - ance I seek". The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with chords and moving lines in both hands. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A large red watermark "Preview Score, not for performance" is overlaid across the middle of the page.

82

Danc - - - ing on aut-umn leaves.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 82 through 85. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Danc - - - ing on aut-umn leaves.". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture to the previous section, featuring chords and moving lines in both hands.

87

in sha - dow and light

*Freely\**

93

*E<sub>b</sub>* *Fm<sup>7</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *B<sub>b</sub>(add4)* *Cm(add9)* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *B<sub>b</sub>(add4)*

the bal - ance I seek with oh oh

*Freely\**

Preview Score, not for performance

\* In place of the written notes, the singer and/or piano may choose to improvise over the changes.  
**If improvising, repeat ad lib. Otherwise, play this section once only.**

100

*Fm<sup>7</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *E<sub>b</sub>* *Cm(add9)* *Fm<sup>7</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *B<sub>b</sub>(add4)*

danc - ing in sha dow and light

*Fm<sup>7</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *E<sub>b</sub>* *Cm(add9)* *Fm<sup>7</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>(sus2)* *B<sub>b</sub>(add4)*

107 *subito p*  
light and breathy

*mp*

Gold - en leaves \_\_\_\_\_ da ya dn da ba da va da ba dn da da

sing provided syllables or freely substitute similar syllables

*subito p*

*mp*

Preview Score, not for performance

113 *mf*

da ya dn da da ba da ya da ba da ya da da ba dn

*mf*

118 *p* *rit.* *pp* *lunga*

da ya da da

*lunga*

*pp*  
slowly