

N° 1101

Eve Beglarian

Fireside

(Homage to Ruth Crawford Seeger)

for spoken voice and piano

2001



EVBVD MUSIC

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Eve Beglarian: Fireside (2001)
(Homage to Ruth Crawford Seeger)

Fireside was commissioned by pianist Sarah Cahill in celebration of Ruth Crawford Seeger's centennial. The piece sets a poem Ruth Crawford wrote when she was thirteen years old. The harmony is a response to her fifth prelude. **Fireside** is dedicated to women composers of the future, who will undoubtedly be making devil's bargains of their own.

Fireside Fancies

When I sit by the side of the blazing fire
 On a cold December night,
And gaze at the leaping and rollicking flames
 As they cast their flickering light

I see what I would be in future years,
 If my wishes and hopes came true,
And the flames form pictures of things that I dream,
 Of the deeds that I hope to do.

One tall yellow flame darts above all the rest,
 And I see myself famed and renowned,
A poetess I, and a novelist too,
 Who is honored the whole world around.

That flame then grows dim, which to me seems to say,
 That my first hope must soon die away,
Then another one darts on a great opera stage,
 The most exquisite music I play.

And then, after many flames rise, and die down,
 The first burns even and slow,
And I see myself singing to children my own,
 On the porch of a small bungalow.

Oh, I dream, and I dream, until slowly the fire
 Burns lower, grows smaller, less bright,
Till the last tiny spark has completely gone out,
 And my dreams are wrapt up in the night.

Ruth Crawford, age 13

fireside

music by eve beglarian
text by ruth crawford, age 13

♩ = 108 *very free*

Piano

The piano introduction consists of four measures. The first measure is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

5 When I sit by the side of the blazing fire On a cold December night, and gaze at the leaping and rollicking

Measures 5-9 of the song. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "When I sit by the side of the blazing fire On a cold December night, and gaze at the leaping and rollicking". The piano accompaniment continues with a steady harmonic accompaniment.

10 flames as they cast their flickering light I see what I would be

Measures 10-13 of the song. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "flames as they cast their flickering light I see what I would be". The piano accompaniment provides a consistent harmonic background.

14 in future years, if my wishes and hopes came true, and the flames form pictures of things

Measures 14-17 of the song. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "in future years, if my wishes and hopes came true, and the flames form pictures of things". The piano accompaniment remains steady.

18 that I dream, Of the deeds that I hope to do. One tall yellow flame darts

Measures 18-21 of the song. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics "that I dream, Of the deeds that I hope to do. One tall yellow flame darts". The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

22 above all the rest and I see myself famed and renowned, a poetess I and a novelist

mp

26 too, who is honored the whole world around. That flame then grows

pp

30 dim, which to me seems to say that my first hope

34 must soon die away.

38 $\bullet = 72$

f

42 then a- nother one darts on a

45 great opera stage the most exquisite

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 and 46. The music is in a key with two flats and a 7/4 time signature. It features a complex piano accompaniment with many chords and some melodic lines. The lyrics 'great opera stage' and 'the most exquisite' are placed above the staff. A dynamic marking of 'ff' is present in measure 46.

47 music I play

begin diminuendo

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47, 48, and 49. The music continues with similar piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'music' and 'I play' are above the staff. A dynamic marking of 'begin diminuendo' is written in the piano part. The time signature changes to 6/4 in measure 49.

50 then after many flames rise and

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50, 51, and 52. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics 'then' and 'after many flames rise and' are above the staff. The time signature changes to 5/4 in measure 52.

53 die down the first burns even

pp p

sost. pedal this chord to the end

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53, 54, 55, and 56. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. The lyrics 'die down', 'the first', and 'burns even' are above the staff. Dynamic markings 'pp' and 'p' are present. A performance instruction 'sost. pedal this chord to the end' is written below the piano part in measure 56.

57 and slow I see myself singing to children, my own on the porch

Detailed description: This system contains measures 57, 58, 59, and 60. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords. The lyrics 'and slow', 'I see myself', 'singing to children, my own', and 'on the porch' are above the staff.

62 of a small bungalow.

66 oh I dream and I dream

70 until slowly the fire burns lower grows smaller

75 less bright, til the last tiny spark has completely gone out

80 and my dreams are wrapt up in the night.

(sost.) -----