

SONGS ON CHINESE VERSES

DIANE THOME

PROGRAM NOTE

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This work consists of settings for soprano and ensemble-- flute, viola, Bb clarinet, celeste, percussion--of three anonymous and untitled poems. It was completed in Philadelphia in December 1964 and received its New York premiere at the Queens College Composers Symposium in April 1965. In the same year it was awarded the David Halstead Prize in vocal composition. The texts follow:

*Goose running along the way
shadow too running along the lane
goose running over the lane
shadow too running over the lane
white goose and her shadow running, running, running
and into the water she goes.*

*To escape from thoughts of love
I put on my fur coat and
run out from the lamplit
silent house
on a tiny footpath the
bright moon peeps
and the withered twigs on
the snow-clad earth
across and across everywhere
scrawl love.*

*Autumn's wind is pure
Autumn's wind is bright
leaf on leaf the wutang tree
rustles outside the balcony
Hard, hard it is to build the dream of home
on the steps the crickets chirp
on the trees, the birds flutter
the frontier wild geese line upon line
breast the horizon,
set upon wounding the exile's heart.*



Scored for:

Soprano
 Flute
 Clarinet in Bb
 Viola

Percussion:

Glockenspiel
 Xylophone
 Celeste
 Vibraphone
 Snare Drum
 Triangle
 Wood Block
 Temple Block
 Finger cymbals
 Piccolo gong
 Bongos

Notes:

1. Vib. plays with pedal unless marked secco.
2. The symbol \vee over a note means it is unaccented.
3. γ grace rest indicates an attack slightly after the beat.
4. All instruments sound where written.

Order of Percussion instruments:

Song I

Song II

Song III

player 1	Sn. dr., Triangle	Vib.	Vib.
player 2	glock., xylo.	glock., wd. block	bongos, celeste
player 3	finger cymbals	temple block, picc. gong	_____

①

mf

Flutter

glock!

Sva

xylo.

rubber mallets

trill

mf

as fast as possible

legato

attacca

wa ter she goes

sn. dr.

f. cymbals

crash together

L.V.

II

♩ = 63

glock.

Sva

vib.

temple block

piccolo gong

wood bl.

mf

Voice *mf* to es - cape from thoughts *meno f.*
 Perc. I *vib.* *dim.*
 Perc. III *piec. gong*
 Perc. II *fp*

Voice *sub. p.* *molto legato* of love - *mp* put on my fur coat
 Perc. II *glock.* *p dolce* *vib. sicc.* *ped.* to wood block
 Perc. I *wood block*
 Perc. III *temp. block*
 Perc. II *wood block* *acc. 5*

Voice *pp* *vib.* *molto* and ran out from the lamp - lit *spoken* (ooh) lent
 Perc. III *piec. gong* *p dolce*
 Perc. II *wd. block (muffle with cloth)*

Voice *a tempo* *whisper (no specific pitch)* house on a - ti - ny foot path
 Viola *glock.*
 Perc. II *pp*
 Perc. I *vib.*

III.

♩ = 116

flute *mp*

clar.

viola *pp* *legato*

Perc. I *vib.* *pp*

Perc. II *pp* *dolce* *2 bongos* *dim.*

voice *speaking softly*

clar. *windy* *pp* *sub.*

viola *pp* *sub.*

Perc. I *vib.* *f* *3* *sub.*

an-tun's wind is pure

voice *mf* *3* *3 dim.* *secco*

flute *3* *5*

Perc. II *celeste* *mf* *mp* *poco*

an-tun's moon is bright

voice *mf* *dim.* *molto leggiero* *sfz* *I*

Perc. II *2 bongos* *pp* *3*

leaf on leaf the Wu-tung tree
rue-thes outside the bal-ko-my Hand
hard it is to

voice *sub.* lyric
Build the dream of home

Flute *fp* *pp*

Clar. *mf* *p*

Viola *p dolce*

Perc. I *vib.*

Perc. II 2 Bongos

voice *mf. leggiero* (half sing) *plu p*
on the steps the cric-kets chirp on the trees the birds

Flute *esp.* *Flutter*

Clar. *esp.*

Perc. II *celeste*

⑤

voice *mp*
flut — ter the fron tier wild geese line up-on line breast the hor -

flute *mf*

clar.

viola

Perc. I

voice *sfz* *mf* *dim.*
- i - la on sal up-on wound ding the ex - ils

flute *f* *sfz*

clar. *sfz*

viola *sfz* *calante* *secco*

Perc. II *sfz*

Perc. I *vib.* *sfz*

⑥

voice *pp*
heart

flute *mp* *dim.*

clar. *p* *dolce*

viola *calante* *esp.*

Perc. II *mp*

Perc. I *vib.* *slow* *tranc.*