ILLUMINATIONS

A SONG CYCLE OF

PAMELA VAN SCHALK'S POETRY

FOR MEZZO - SOPRANO AND PIANO

Composed by

Christopher L. James
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Dear Mr. Van Schaik,

For many years of our friendship, I have been thankful for the joy of collaboration and discussion. I am indebted to you.

For inviting cups of coffee in the sunshine, toasts jovially, and words carefully prepared.

And for the joyful celebration of music making, I thank thee for thy many kindnesses.

May happy returns and many times for you.

Much love,

Chicé

Pamela Van Schaik

C. L. James collaborated with Pamela Van Schaik on a number of works. This is a letter to her referring to Illuminations. Other works that he collaborated with her was 'Cosmic Horizons' and 'Solar Eclipse'.

C. L. James collaborated with Pamela Van Schaik on a number of works. This is a letter to her referring to Illuminations. Other works that he collaborated with her was 'Cosmic Horizons' and 'Solar Eclipse'.
1. Yellow Bird

Fat yellow bird,
I saw your beak
To catch the water drop
Trembling from a leaf
And steal a dog biscuit from bowl
And then a blade of grass
To weave your home,
I've left long tufts unmown
So you'll come to my door tomorrow
And live beside me, all summer. (x2)

2. Wind in Cypresses

Wonderful afternoons when the wind
Is a soft presence in the house
Causing a door to close quietly
Or simply shift position;
When the leaves quiver in moving shadows
And the tall cypresses sway left and right.
And there is little to do except note
That time is space, and both are slow
And bright.

3. Crossing the Cosmos

From here to there
Is just a bridge
On a line curved
Into a cone of thought
Or dream.

Light is a nought
Out of sight.
It passes no forever
Asking if it is.
I think it is
Old and gold
Unfolding like a limitless bud. (x2)

4. Illumination
Within us all there is a will
To find, if only for a fleeting instant,
Some precious light to hold
So that we may be bright again
With love and laughter
which brims from a clear soul.
So I find your light
But will not hoard it
For my sole delight
But wear it as a jewel
Illumining all the worlds I inhabit. (x2)

5. Words
I wish that words could
Like anemones in snow
To still the feeling of not belonging
That they could illumine
Every cell of my being
And, like the source of plane,
Signify that which is holy. (x2)
A SONG CYCLE OF PAMELA VAN SCHAIK'S POETRY

FOR MEZZO - SOPRANO AND PIANO

"ILLUMINATIONS"

1. YELLOW BIRD

2. WIND IN CYPRESSES

3. CROSSING THE COSMOS

4. ILLUMINATION

5. WORDS

COMPOSED BY: CHRISTOPHER L. JANUS

COMPLETED: SEPTEMBER 2002 © 2002
I've left long tapers unburned so you'll come to my house.

Down tomorrow and live by wise in all summer.

Dundon c. 55%
WIND IN CYPRESS

ANDANTE (\( \frac{3}{4} \) = \( \frac{3}{80} \))

SOP
Piano

when the wind is a soft presence in the house.

Causing a door to close quietly or simply.

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
When the leaves quiver in morning shadows
And the tall yuccas sway left and right,
So, except note that time is space, and both are
Out of sight. We pass no one forever. Asking if it is.

I think it is old and gold unfolding like an infinite bud.

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ILLUMINATION

ADAGIO CON moto ( \( \text{L} = \text{c.} 70 \) )

Within us all there is a will

To

And, if only for a flashing instant, some precious light to hold so that we may be

believe

brighter again with love to give and laughter which being from a clear

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soul. So I find your light
But will not hear it for my
song. But now it as a jewel
illuminating all the
worlds I inhabit.
Illuminating all the worlds I inhabit.
ANDANTE (♩ = c. 80)

WORNS

I wish those words could be like an embers in snow

To still the feeling of not belonging

They could illumine every cell of my being. And, like the dove's plumage.

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Completed: September 2002

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The accompaniment may also be played by the harp.

Duration of cycle: Approx. 4'30" - 5'00"

Dee Paula,

For your friendship, kindness, compassion, enthusiasm and joie de vivre.

A very, very Christmas

Love,

Chris.