

# ILLUMINATIONS

A SONG CYCLE OF

PAMELA VAN SCHALK'S POETRY

FOR MEZZO - SOPRANO AND PIANO

Composed by

Christopher L. James

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Dearest Pamela,

For many years of true friendship I thank thee;  
for the joy of collaboration and <sup>thoughtful</sup> discussion  
I am indebted to thee.

For inviting cups of coffee in the sunshine,  
And meals <sup>tastefully</sup> ~~carefully~~ prepared;

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

May happy returns and may there  
be many more.

Love

Chris.

nm

nm

PAM 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'.



# Illuminations

## 1. Yellow Bird

Fat yellow bird,  
I saw you lift 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 house,  
I've left long tufts unmown  
So you'll come to my lawn tomorrow  
and live beside me. all summer. (x2)

## 2. Wind in Cypress

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 shadow  
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 thought  
out of sight,  
it passes so forever  
asking if it is.



(2)

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 flashing 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 glow  
Like anemones in snow  
To still the feeling of not belonging  
That they could illumine  
Every cell of my being  
And, like the dove's plume,  
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. JAMES

COMPLETED : SEPTEMBER 2002 © 2002

ANDANTE CON MOTO (♩ = c. 72) YELLOW BIRD

SOP

P I A N O

fat yel-low bird, I saw you

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

mp

3 4 3 4

ped

SOP

P I A N O

lift your beak to catch the water drop trembling from a leaf and steal a dog biscuit from the

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

mp

3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4

belicabo

SOP

P I A N O

bowl And then a blade of grass To wear your

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

f

3 4 3 4 3 4

cresc. diminuendo

SOP

house. I've left long kisses un --- morn so you'll come to my

PIANO

mp

p

tr

pp(+)

f

SOP

lawn to -- morn and live be side me all summer. And

PIANO

tr

pp(+)

f

SOP

live be side me all summer.

PIANO

pp

Duration c. 55"







S  
O  
P

4  
4

shift ps-i-tion; When the leaves quiet in no-ving shadows

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

S  
O  
P

6  
4

And the tall cy--passer sway left and right, And there is little to

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

6  
4

So, ex-cept note That time is space, and both are

P  
I  
A  
N  
O



S  
O  
P

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

slow and bright.

mf

crescendo

6/4

4/4

4/4

S  
O  
P

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

4/4

4/4

f

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Duration = c. 1'05"



CROSSING THE COSMOS

ANDANTE (♩ = c. 80)

SOPRANO

PIANO

from here to there is just a bridge on a

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

PEB ----- 1 -----

SOPRANO

PIANO

line curves into a cone of thought or eman

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

SOPRANO

PIANO

light is a rough

3/4 4/4 3/4

S  
O  
P

3/4

*mp*

Out of sight. It passes us fore-uer Ask-ing if it is.

3

3

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

3/4

*mp*

S  
O  
P

2/4 4/4

I think it is Old and gold Un-fol-ding like a limitless bud. Old and

3

3

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

2/4 4/4

S  
O  
P

gold Un-fol-ding like a li-mitless bud.

P  
I  
A  
N  
O

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Duration = c. 50"











SOLO

PIANO

*f* That which is holy. Signify that which is ho--ly.

*p*

*pp*

diminuendo

Duration = c. 40"

COMPLETED : SEPTEMBER 2002

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THE ACCOMPANIMENT MAY ALSO BE PLAYED BY THE HARP.

DURATION OF CYCLE : APPROX. 4'30" - 5'00"

Dear Pamela,

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

A very merry Christmas

Love  
*Chris.*