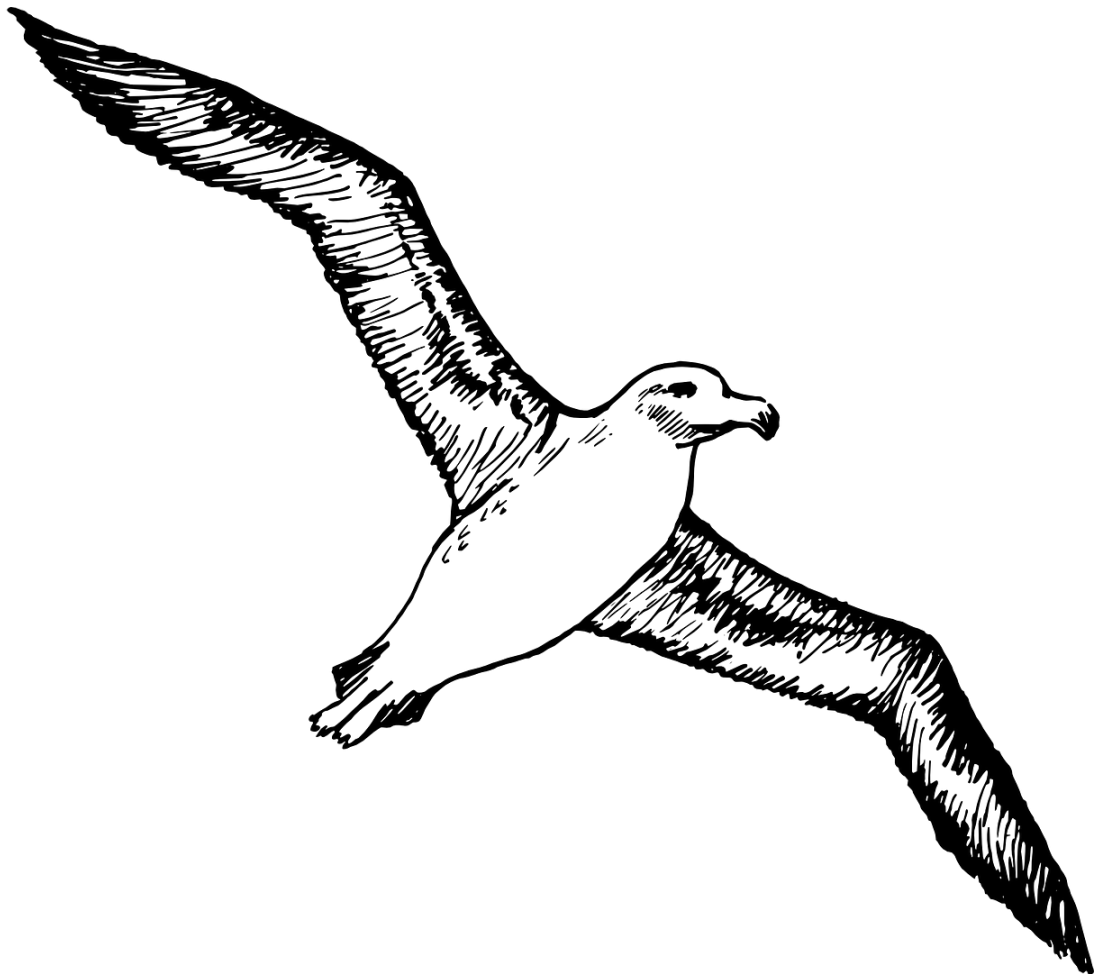


Stephen Mitton

Albatross

For Mezzo-soprano and Pierrot Ensemble



Written for the 2018 Oregon Bach Festival
Composers' Symposium

Mezzo-soprano

Flute

Bb Clarinet

Violin

Violoncello

Piano

About Albatross

The word “albatross” has a dual meaning, signifying either the common seabird or a deep psychological burden one carries around through life. Chad Crane’s poem is written in the spirit of the metaphor’s origin, in which an albatross following a ship could be seen as either a good or evil omen.

Crane’s poem speaks of both loss and longing – an albatross carried by the protagonist, placed as if by a curse. This piece captures an emotional cycle of obsessive nostalgia, escapist thought, resignation to the darker realities of life, and, finally, a return to repetitive wistfulness as the cycle begins anew.

-Stephen Mitton

Duration: c. 4:40

Albatross

just say the word—

like balm tincture Novocain

to sooth the doldrums

of dull dumb January

My bones
ache with boredom

marrow boiling like stew

the puncture wound
of
grey

pavement mirrored by

gray sky

Albatross

Albatross

give me the pungent
push of feathers

let the night
smack
of briny sea
Foam

Froth

Albatross

Take me in your beak
like some scrap combed
from the beach

Lift me high above the earth
where light and gravity
spin the music of clouds
into atmosphere

and let me
loose—

a wispy bit of nothing
tossed by an ocean of air

-Chad Crane

Albatross

Written for the 2018 Oregon Bach Festival
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Stephen Mitton
Text by Chad Crane

Wistfully ♩ = 68

The musical score is arranged in a system with six staves. The top three staves are for Mezzo-Soprano, Flute, and Clarinet in B \flat , each with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. The next two staves are for Violin and Cello, with a treble clef for the Violin and a bass clef for the Cello, both in 6/8 time. The bottom staff is for the Piano, consisting of two staves with treble and bass clefs. The score begins with a tempo marking of 'Wistfully ♩ = 68'. The Mezzo-Soprano, Flute, and Clarinet parts are mostly silent, indicated by horizontal lines. The Violin and Cello parts enter in the third measure with a melodic line marked *mp*. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment of chords and arpeggios, starting with a *p* dynamic. A *Ped.* (pedal) line is shown at the bottom of the piano part.

4

Musical score for the first system, measures 4-6. It includes vocal lines, piano accompaniment, and a grand staff. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A '7' is written above a piano line in measure 5. A 'sim.' marking is above the grand staff in measure 6.

* Ped.



7

Musical score for the second system, measures 7-9. It includes vocal lines with lyrics "Just say the word", piano accompaniment, and a grand staff. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. A box labeled "A" is above the vocal line in measure 8. A '7' is written above a piano line in measure 7. A trill "tr" is marked in measure 8. A "Ped." marking is at the end of the system.

* Ped.

10

mf

like ___ balm tinc - ture No - vo - cain _____ to soothe ___ the dol - drums

mp

mp

mp

mp

Ped. *Ped.*

14

of dull ___ dumb Jan - u - a - ry _____

mp

mp

mf

f

mf

f

Ped. *Ped.*

18

mp **B**

My bones ache with

mf *mp* *p*

f *p*

subito p

Ped. throughout

22

bore - dom mar - row boil - ing like stew

f

f

sim.

mf

25

mf
the punc - ture wound of

mf
mp
Ped.

29

gray pave - ment mir - rored by gray sky

mf
Ped.

32

C

f *mp*

Al - ba - tross Al - ba - tross

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

f *p*

mp

f *1/2 Ped. ad lib.*

37

mp

Give me the pun - gent push of feath - ers

p *p*

pizz. *arco*

p *p*

41

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score is written for a piano with five staves. The first staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The second and third staves are treble clefs. The fourth and fifth staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The score includes dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The first staff has rests. The second and third staves have melodic lines with slurs and accents. The fourth and fifth staves have accompaniment with slurs and accents. The word *loco* is written above the fourth staff in the second measure. The word *8va* is written above the fourth staff in the first measure, with a dashed line indicating an octave shift. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

45

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is written for a piano with five staves. The first staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The second and third staves are treble clefs. The fourth and fifth staves are a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The first staff has rests. The second and third staves have melodic lines with slurs and accents. The fourth and fifth staves have accompaniment with slurs and accents. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

rit.

Let the night smack of brin-y sea

pp *p* *pp*

arco *pp* *p* *pp*

D Introspectively ♩ = 70

Foam, Froth

mp *p* *p* *pp*

gliss. over strings (with fingertips) *harmonic gliss.* *pp* *sim.*

hold Pedal down

— a - bove the earth —

p

p

Ped.

F

a tempo

*mf*₂

Lift me high — a - bove the earth —

pp

p

mp

ppp

mf

ppp

mf

mp

Ped.



86 *accel.*

Musical score for measures 86-87. The vocal line features the lyrics "where light and grav - i - ty" with a fermata over "light" and a slur over "and grav - i - ty". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody with a slur and a double bar line, and a left-hand accompaniment with chords and a "Ped." marking. A double bar line with an asterisk is at the end of the system.

Tempo I

88

Musical score for measures 88-91. The vocal line features the lyrics "spin the mu - sic of clouds in - to at - mos -" with a slur over "spin the mu - sic of clouds" and a slur over "in - to at - mos -". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody with a slur and a double bar line, and a left-hand accompaniment with chords and a "Ped." marking. A double bar line with an asterisk is at the end of the system.

91

rit. -----

phere

Musical score for measures 91-94. The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *rit.* (ritardando). The word "phere" is written under the vocal line.



95

a tempo

rit. -----

Musical score for measures 95-98. The score includes a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *subito p* (suddenly piano). The instruction "arco Con sord." (arco with mutes) is present. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and chordal textures.

*

G

99

a tempo

Musical score for measures 99-103. The score consists of five systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a whole rest. The second system has a treble clef staff with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The third system has a treble clef staff with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The fourth system has a treble clef staff with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic and a *sim.* (sostenuto) marking. The fifth system has a grand staff with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a *Ped.* (pedal) marking.



104

Musical score for measures 104-108. The score consists of five systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The second system has a treble clef staff with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking. The third system has a treble clef staff with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *pizz. Con sord.* (pizzicato con sordina) marking. The fourth system has a grand staff with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The fifth system has a grand staff with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and a *Ped.* (pedal) marking with asterisks at the beginning and end.

107

mp

and let me

Musical score for measures 107-110. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *f*. The piano part features chords and a pedal line with markings like *Ped.* and *arco*. Measure numbers 107, 108, 109, and 110 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

110

lose

a wisp - y bit of

noth - ing

Musical score for measures 110-113. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *mp*. The piano part features chords and a pedal line with markings like *Ped.* and *arco*. Measure numbers 110, 111, 112, and 113 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

* *Ped.*

113

tossed by an ocean of air.

p *pp*

p *pp*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped. throughout*



rit.

116

ppp

allow natural decay