

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:SP 2009

Department:Music

Degree:MM

Title:Three Songs for Unaccompanied Choir

Many twentieth-century choral works are constructed around the variation of rhythmic and melodic motives that appear at the beginning of the piece. Once the initial motives have been established, the composer is free to explore the developmental possibilities that the motives possess.

In this piece for a capella SSAATTBB choir and soprano and tenor soloists, one possible development of Maurice Ravel's opening chorus from *Trois Chansons* is explored. As *Three Songs* progresses, it exhibits fewer specific musical developments from Ravel's work and instead absorbs features from other twentieth-century choral composers including Benjamin Britten, Francis Poulenc, William Walton, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Eric Whitacre.

The poems "Universal Imperative" and "Birds of Paradise" were written by Missouri artisans Ryan McNeil and Mark Woodward respectively. The last poem was written by Missouri musician Rachel AuBuchon.