

The Wind

for

SA Choir and Piano

[Optional Wind Chimes]

by

John Burge

The Wind

*I saw you toss the kites on high
And blow the birds about the sky;
And all around I heard you pass,
Like dragging clothes across the grass—
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song!*

*I saw the different things you did,
But always you yourself you hid.
I felt you push, I heard you call,
I could not see yourself at all—
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song!*

*O you that are so strong and cold,
O blower, are you young or old?
Are you a beast of field and tree,
Or just a stronger child than me?
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song!*

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894).
(from *A Child's Garden of Verses
and Underwoods*. 1913)

About the music:

The Wind was commissioned by the Florida All State Elementary Choir for a premiere in January, 2013 during a concert conducted by Earlene Rentz. The work is a setting of a three-verse poem by Robert Louis Stevenson for SA choir, piano and optional wind chimes. The poem beautifully captures a child's view of the wind as an invisible entity that is mysterious in its motivation and in its demonstration of both subtle and powerful effects on the landscape. The singers are asked to generate wind-like vocalizations at times thereby creating a sonic image to match the words. These moments can be further accentuated by the use of a few wind chimes.

Duration: approximately 4.5 minutes.

About the composer:

Dr. John Burge was born in Dryden, Ontario in 1961. He holds degrees in Composition and Theory from the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Since 1987 he has been teaching at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. A passionate advocate of Canadian music, he was a member of the executive council of the Canadian League of Composers for fourteen years, serving as President from 1998-2006.

John Burge has written a large body of vocal, chamber, and orchestral compositions. He is particularly well known though, for his choral music, which have been performed by such choirs as The Elmer Iseler Singers, The BBC Singers, The Amabile Youth Choir, The Toronto Children's Chorus and The St. Louis Symphony Children's Choir. Many of these choral works have been published by Boosey and Hawkes. His composition, *Angels' Voices*, for choir and orchestra, received the 2006 Outstanding New Choral Composition Award from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and was performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2005.

Performance advice:

The vocalizations marked "sh" are to sound like wind and can be achieved if the undetermined pitch rises during the crescendos and falls during the diminuendos. Some singers could even add some soft whistling sounds. The wind-like vocalizations do not need to follow the rhythmic indications exactly and the conductor may want to sculpt the effects instead of beating time. The overlapping wind effects and final canon will sound best if the Sopranos and Altos are placed on either side of the stage. The use of a number of different wind chimes (glass and metal being preferred for their resonance) would work best if these were suspended on a rod and placed between the Sopranos and Altos. The wind chimes should be allowed to reverberate freely and may continue to echo into the next section but should not dominate the musical fabric too much.

The Wind

Music: John Burge (b. 1961)

Text: Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Gently and with flexibility ♩ = 76

[Optional single wind chime—see introductory remarks]

Soprano and Alto

pp < *mp* >

Gently and with flexibility ♩ = 76

Sh _____

Piano

p dolce < *mp* > *p*

p _____

Ped. * Ped. (Ped. simile)

6

S. & A.

pp < *mp* > *mp dolce*

sh _____ I saw you toss the kites on high And

mp > *p*

p _____ *mp* > *p*

11

S. & A.

mf > *mp*

blow the birds a - bout the sky; And all a - round I heard you pass, Like

mp _____ *mf* _____

15 S. & A. *mf* *mp*
drag - ging clothes a - cross the grass; — O wind, a - blow - - - ing all day

18 S. & A. *mf* *mp* *cresc.*
long, — O wind, that sings — so loud a

21 S. & A. *f* *rit.* *ff* *dim.* *a tempo*
song, so loud a song!

24 S. & A. *(p)* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*
(p)

28

S. *p* \langle *mf* \rangle

[Optional: Add more wind chimes]

A. *p* \langle *mf* \rangle

Sh _____

Sh _____

mf \longrightarrow *f* *mf* \longrightarrow *f*

30

S. *p* \langle *mf* \rangle

A. *p* \langle *mf* \rangle

sh _____

sh _____

mf \longrightarrow *f* *mf* \longrightarrow *f*

32

S. *f* Ah _____ *f* ah _____

A. *p* \langle *f* \rangle *f* (*sempre*)

sh _____ I saw the dif-frent things you did,

mf *p* \longrightarrow *f* *mp*

va

35

S. *f* *f*
ah ah

A. But al-ways you your-self you hid. I felt you push, I heard you call,

37

S. *f*
ah

A. I could not see your-self at all, O wind, a - blow - ing

39

S. *f* *f*
ah ah

A. *ff* *f* *ff*
all day long, O wind, that sings so loud a song!

fp *8va* *fp* *cresc.* *fp* *cresc.* *fp* *cresc.*

42 *(no dim.)* *ff* *rall.*

S. *ah* *ah*

A. *f (no dim.)* *ff*

O wind, O wind, that sings so

f *cresc.* *ff* *rall.*

45 *a tempo*

S. [Optional: Add more wind chimes]

A. *p* *mp*

loud a song! Sh

a tempo

p *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

ped. *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* (*Ped. simile*)

49 *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

S. Sh [Optional: All wind chimes available] sh

A. *p* *mf* *p* *f*

sh

p *cresc.*

53 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

S.

A. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

57 *mf* *p* *mp dolce*

S.

A. *p* *mp dolce*

O you that are so strong and cold, O

p

(*And.* *And. simile*)

60

S. you that are so strong and cold, O blow - er, are you

A. blow - er, are you young or old? Are you a beast

mp *mf*

63

S. young or old? Are you a beast of field and tree, Or

A. of field and tree, Or just a strong-er child than me? O wind, a -

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

p *mf*

66

S. just a strong-er child than me? O wind, a - blow - - - ing all day

A. blow - - - ing all day long, O wind, that

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

mp *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

69

S. long, O wind, that sings so loud a

A. sings so loud a song, so loud a

mf *mp rit. cresc.* *ff dim.*

rit. *f* *mp*

72 *a tempo*
f *mp*
 S. *song!*
 A. *song!*
mp
a tempo
fp **f** **mf** **mp**

76 [Less wind chimes] **p** *mp*
 S. Sh _____
 A. [Optional: Use only a few wind chimes] *mp* *mf* Sh _____
f (sub.) **mf**
 Red. * Red. *

78 [One very soft wind chime] **ppp** *pp*
 S. sh _____
 A. [Less wind chimes] **pp** *p* sh _____
mp **p**
 Red. * Red. *