

A Prairie Storm

A storm

Hangs darkly in the west, and not a sigh
 Disturbs the evening's stillness, save that leaves,
 Whitely a-rustle, prophesy the wind
 That far away rolls up a creamy froth
 Along the upper margin of a cloud
 That brings a darkness on.

The storm will break

With a lightning flash, with a quick and smothering sweep,
 A gale will rage and howl and slam at doors.
 Our unpaved street become a hurrying stream,
 And the long, lancing raindrops will be blent
 Into a woven garment for the dark!

But this will cease, and robins in the grass

Be singing cheerfully their evensong:
 The wind's fierce voice will hush beneath the notes,
 While the last rain slips down in lazy drops.
 Low in the west will break a yellow bar,
 And through it redly shines the setting sun.

Storm all gone by, the chorus of the birds

Will fade away as clouds drive swiftly east,
 And, with the night, shine out the quiet stars.

Elizabeth Chase Bergeim

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Although not originally composed as part of the major work *Songs of the Prairies*; No. 1 *White Promise* (15/1737R); No. 2 *Snow and Summer* (15/2049R); and No. 3 *Prairie Fire* (15/2207R), published by Roger Dean, this piece fits nicely into the set and can be mixed, matched or included as a part of the whole.

Prairie Storm

Elizabeth Chase Bergeim

SATB *divisi, a cappella*

Thomas J. Porter

Ominously ♩ = ca. 60

The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with the lyrics "A prai - rie storm, a prai - rie". The second staff is the alto line, with the lyric "Oh,". The third staff is the tenor line, with the lyric "Oh,". The fourth staff is the bass line, with the lyric "Oh, —". The fifth staff is the piano accompaniment, marked "for rehearsal only". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, and *mp*, and a tempo marking "Ominously ♩ = ca. 60". The time signature is 4/4.

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, with the lyrics "storm(m),* a prai - rie". The second staff is the alto line, with the lyrics "A prai - rie storm(m),*". The third staff is the tenor line, with the lyric "Mm.". The fourth staff is the bass line, with the lyric "Mm.". The fifth staff is the piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, and *pp*. The time signature is 4/4.

*Close to "m" in this measure only.

Duration: 5:50

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storm hangs, —

mf a prai-rie storm hangs, —

mf A prai-rie storm hangs, —

mf A prai-rie storm hangs, —

mf hang, —

a storm hangs, — mm, —

a storm hangs, — mm, —

a storm hangs, — mm, —

a storm hangs, — mm, —

hang, — hang(ng), —

13 *pp* west, *mp* hangs dark - ly in the west, *mp* and not a hangs in the west,

17 *mp* and not a sigh, *p* dis - *p* sigh, *mf* and not a sigh, *p* a sigh, *mf* and not a sigh, *p* a sigh, *mf* *dim.* *p*

20 turbs the ev' - ning still, _____

pp the still - ness, still - ness,

pp the still - ness, still - ness,

8 the still, _____

the still, _____

pp

24 _____ *stringendo mp*

still, save leaves that proph - e - sy the

stringendo mp

still, save leaves that proph - e - sy the

stringendo mp

save leaves that proph - e - sy the

stringendo mp

save leaves, _____

stringendo mp

28

wind that far a - way rolls up a cream - y froth, ———

wind that far a - way rolls up a cream - y froth, ———

wind that far a - way rolls up a cream - y froth to

the wind ——— rolls up a cream - y froth to

rit.

31

Urgently ♩ = ca. 120

pp

— a dark - ness on. ———

— a dark - ness on. ———

bring a dark - ness on. ———

bring a dark - ness on. ———

Urgently ♩ = ca. 120

pp