



Brittany J. Green

When I Rise Up...
for mezzo-soprano and violin



Program Notes

When I Rise Up..., written for mezzo-soprano and violin, sets the text of Georgia Douglas Johnson's poem by the same name. Written loosely in ABA form, the opening section, marked *soaring*, juxtaposes fluid vocal lines with jaunty passages in the violin. In the B section, energy is shifted back and forth between the voice and violin through cadenza-like passages in the voice and disjunct rhythms and shrill timbres in the violin. The final section revisits melodic lines from the opening, before fading away into silence.

Text

"When I Rise Up" - Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880-1966)

When I rise up above the earth,
And look down on the things that fetter me,
I beat my wings upon the air,
Or tranquil lie,
Surge after surge of potent strength
Like incense comes to me
When I rise up above the earth
And look down upon the things that fetter me.

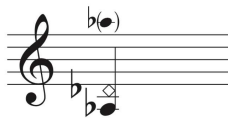
This poem is in public domain.

Performance Notes

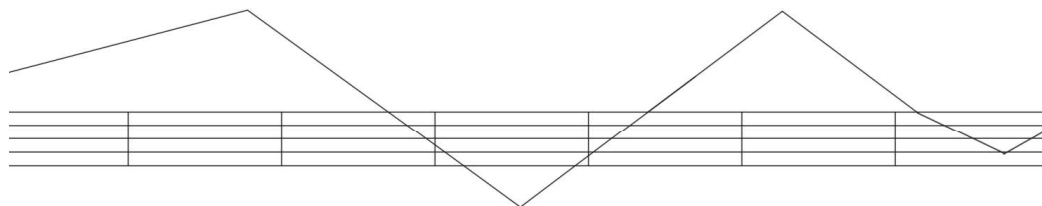
Accidentals apply only to the pitches they directly precede.

Notes marked with "◦" are to be played as natural harmonics (sound pitch is notated).

Notation Key



Artificial harmonics. Sounding pitch is in parentheses.



"Seagull Effect" - player should finger an interval of an octave and slide up and down the fingerboard in the direction indicated by the line. The interval fingered should remain the same throughout.

When I Rise Up...

Text: "When I Rise Up" Georgia Douglas Johnson

Brittany J. Green

Mezzo-Soprano

freely ♩ = ± 55

Violin

freely ♩ = ± 55

p *f*

fp *ppp* *fp* *pp*

pizz.

When I ___ rise up ___ a - bove

MS

6

p *mf*

the Earth, ___ And look ___ down on the things ___ that fet-ter ___ me,

Vln.

6

arco

p *mf* *pp* *cresc.*

Soaring ♩ = 100

MS

10

3

I beat my wings ___

Vln.

10

Soaring ♩ = 100

fp *pp* *fp*

MS

14

3

up-on the ___ air ___

Vln.

14

pizz.

pp *cresc.*

B
BJG

MS *mf*

or tran - quil lie

Vln. arco

MS

Surge af - ter

Vln. *f* pizz. arco

subito p

MS

surge

Vln. *f* *subito p* *mp* *f*

MS

of po - tent

Vln. *mf* *p* *f*