

Alexandra Gardner

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# Hummingbird Dreams

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piano

PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

## **About *Hummingbird Dreams***

I was housesitting on the West Coast when I started to write *Hummingbird Dreams*. There were numerous hummingbird feeders spread around a long porch that spanned the width of the house, and all day, as many as 40 hummingbirds would take advantage of this sugar water buffet. They became especially active at dusk, and then just as the sun disappeared, so did the entire flurry of hummingbirds.

Curious about where these little whirlwind creatures went at night, I did some research and discovered their fascinating sleep cycle. Hummingbirds sleep hanging upside down from branches, and their metabolism slows to a near standstill—completely opposite their daytime body rhythm. When the sun rises, their metabolism slowly speeds back up; the process requires 20 to 30 minutes. I wondered what they might dream about in their state of torpor, and how they are able to time their migration routes to the day, year after year.

My compositional language embraces different sorts of contrast, and this work for piano juxtaposes several formal and textural elements such as quick, angular lines set against slower, smoothly flowing phrases. At times they are presented side by side, and at others, they are overlaid one on top of one another. There is a great deal of “bird energy” woven into the music!

### **First Performance**

December 15, 2019  
American Philosophical Society  
Philadelphia, PA  
Natalia Kazaryan, piano

### **Duration**

6:30

[alexandragardner.net](http://alexandragardner.net)

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A. Gardner Music

Commissioned by Astral Artists through its Micro-Commissioning Program  
for Pianist Natalia Kazaryan

# Hummingbird Dreams

Alexandra Gardner  
(2019)

Bright, spirited ♩ = 126

Piano

*p*

4

*mp*

8

13

17

*mf*

l.v.

21

3

25

f

29

6

34

3

40

rit. ----- a tempo

mf mp mf

3 6

45

mf

mp

8va

49

f

mf

(8va)

53

mf

(8va)

56

mf

60

mf

64

Musical score for measures 64-67. The piece is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody in the treble clef features eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the end of the system.

68

Musical score for measures 68-73. The key signature changes to one flat (F major or D minor) and the time signature changes to 3/4. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A sixteenth-note triplet is marked with a '6' above it. The bass line consists of chords and single notes.

74

Musical score for measures 74-80. The key signature changes to no flats (C major or A minor) and the time signature changes to 4/4. The melody is characterized by a wavy line representing a hummingbird sound, with notes marked with a circled 'o'. The bass line features chords and a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and a circled 'o' with a dot.

81

Mischievous ♩ = 120

Musical score for measures 81-88. The key signature changes to one flat (F major or D minor) and the time signature changes to 4/4. The melody is marked with a circled 'o' and a dot. The bass line features chords. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *pp* (pianissimo).

89

Musical score for measures 89-96. The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and the time signature changes to 6/8. The melody is marked with a circled 'o' and a dot. The bass line features chords. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

95

Musical notation for measures 95-99. The score is in treble and bass clefs. Measure 95 is in 6/8 time. Measures 96-97 are in 4/4 time. Measures 98-99 are in 4/8 time. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines.

100

Musical notation for measures 100-105. The score is in treble and bass clefs. Measures 100-101 are in 3/4 time. Measures 102-103 are in 3/4 time. Measures 104-105 are in 4/4 time. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines.

106

Musical notation for measures 106-112. The score is in treble and bass clefs. Measures 106-107 are in 4/4 time. Measures 108-109 are in 3/4 time. Measures 110-111 are in 4/4 time. Measures 112 is in 4/4 time. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines.

113

Musical notation for measures 113-118. The score is in treble and bass clefs. Measures 113-114 are in 4/4 time. Measures 115-116 are in 4/4 time. Measures 117-118 are in 2/4 time. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measure 113.

119

Musical notation for measures 119-124. The score is in treble and bass clefs. Measures 119-120 are in 4/4 time. Measures 121-122 are in 3/4 time. Measures 123-124 are in 4/4 time. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present in measure 123.