

Alexandra Gardner

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The Song-Spattered Sky

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soprano & piano  
poetry by Farnaz Fatemi

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

### About the work:

*The Song-Spattered Sky* was written in 2020 during the pandemic lockdown.

When the simplest outings seemed fraught, I found comfort in our garden, a safe outdoor space. In the absence of usual inputs from the outside world and left to my thoughts for company, I found myself tending to my own experience in a way that resembled working in the garden. Some activities, ideas, and habits needed to be pulled like weeds, and others grew strong and tall with water, sunlight, and a bit of extra attention.

My friend Farnaz Fatemi's poetry captured the sense of that time for me.

### Text:

#### Incantation

My patch of dirt  
is like the belly of the buddha  
which I'd rub, if I could.  
I weed it free of invasives.  
Gloves keep the sting  
of the leaves off my fingers.  
Nettle, bindweed, oxalis.  
Cultivate soil to change the future.  
Here's a seed to burst  
from its hull and bring news.  
Or, if not news, a daydream,  
furtive, caught by chance  
from the song-spattered sky.

— Farnaz Fatemi

### Notation:

Accidentals apply for the duration of one measure.

### Duration:

3:00

Commissioned by the Bellingham Symphony

Duration: 3:00

# The Song-Spattered Sky

Poetry by Farnaz Fatemi

Music by Alexandra Gardner

$\text{♩} = 76$  Gently

Soprano

Piano

*p*

Measures 1-4: The Soprano part consists of whole rests. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with changing time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 4/4) and dynamics. The key signature has one flat.

5

*mp*

My patch of

*bubbling, light legato*

*p*

Measures 5-7: The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "My patch of". The Piano part continues with a bubbling accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The key signature has one flat.

8

dirt is like the bel - ly of the Bud - dha

Measures 8-10: The Soprano part continues with the lyrics "dirt is like the bel - ly of the Bud - dha". The Piano part provides accompaniment. The key signature has one flat.

The Song-Spattered Sky

11

which I'd rub \_\_\_\_\_ if I could.

14

I'd weed it free of in - va sives.

17

Gloves keep the sting of the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ from my fin gers

20

Net - tle

22 *f*

bi - ind - weed, ox - a -

24 *f*

lis.

26 *mf*

Flowing, buoyant  
Cul - ti - vate

*flowing, more pedal*

*mp*

29

soil to change the fu - ture.

The Song-Spattered Sky

32

*with a dollop of salsa...*

36

*mf* *f*

Here's a seed to burst

*mf*

40

*mf* *f*

from its hull and bring news.

*f*

44