

# The Robin

for soprano, piccolo, cello, & piano

Ryan Suleiman  
music

Gibran Khalil Gibran  
text

2020

# The Robin (2020)

for soprano, piccolo, cello, & piano

ca. 12'

music by Ryan Suleiman, text by Gibran Khalil Gibran  
commissioned by Left Coast Chamber Ensemble

## Performance Note

Commissioned by LCCE for a “virtual” performance complying with COVID-19 social-distancing measures, this piece may be performed using a pre-recorded audio or video track created by the soprano in their home. The instrumental ensemble responds to the video.

The work may also be performed completely live and in fact, a live performance is preferred. In this case, it is suggested that the soprano stand on stage far away from the ensemble. For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

## Aid Efforts in Lebanon

Half of royalties generated from performances of this work will be donated to efforts to mitigate the current economic crisis in Lebanon, worsened by the 2020 explosion in Beirut.

## Program Note

*Gibran's "The Robin" for me in 2020 represents a yearning for peace while in a state of isolation and anxiety. This feeling is also reflected in the singer's situation. The piece, created with social-distancing measures in mind, is written such that the singer is not only physically isolated from her instrumentalist colleagues, but also musically. She has to sing, then wait for a reaction. During the pandemic, we want to gather together, but can't. In Gibran's robin we find beauty, peace, and tranquility. The robin lives gracefully and in the moment. Imagining this robin as I composed has been a kind of balm. I hope it is for you, too.*

*Gibran, like my father, emigrated to the United States from Lebanon. My father grew up in Beirut, and I became especially motivated to work with Gibran's poetry after Beirut's devastating port explosion, which compounded the numerous crises in that country. Half of performance royalties will be donated to aid efforts in Lebanon.*

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**Freely, delicately, plenty of space/silence, lonely** ♩ = c. 48

*always expressive, just a little vibrato throughout*

soprano *p*

O Ro-bin, O Ro - bin Ro - - bin,

piccolo

cello

piano

4 *fp* *mf* *mp* *p* *recit.-like*

s. sing (ad-lib.) Ro - bin sing for the

7 *a little frantic* *now lush, warm* *mp* *p*

s. se-cret of e-ter-ni-ty of e-ter-ni-ty is... the se-cret is the se-cret is... in song in song...

11 **Ethereal, l'istesso tempo** ♩ = c. 48

s. *plenty of space/silence*

pic. *p*

vc.

pno. *luminous* *p* *8va*

*Ped. (keep ped. down)*

2

15

pic.

vc.

pno.

*mp*

*pp*

*mp*

*p*

(8)

17

pic.

vc.

pno.

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

(8)

19

pic.

vc.

pno.

*mp*

*p*

*gliss.*

seagull, in the foreground

(G.P.)

(G.P.)

(G.P.)

22

pic. *p* *mp* *p*

vc. *p* *mp* *p*

pno. *p* *mf* *p*

\* Red.

26

pic. *pp* *3* (G.P.)

vc. *pp* (G.P.)

pno. (G.P.)

\* *seagull, (sul A)* *gliss.*

Wistful, again, plenty of space/silence ♩ = c. 56-60

30

s. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

Ah Ah— Ro-bin I wish I were as you, — free free from pri-sons