

Commissioned by the Brooklyn Center High School Concert Choir, Erica Kragness, conductor

# The Boy Who Picked Up His Feet to Fly

For my brother Zach

Mark Robinson

Joshua Shank

**Lively** (♩.=96) *f* >

S  
A  
T  
B

Soar - ing and spin - ning and touch - ing the sky

Soar - ing and spin - ning and touch - ing the sky

Soar - ing and spin - ning and touch - ing the sky

Soar - ing and spin - ning and touch - ing the sky

Piano

**Lively** (♩.=96) *f*

boy who picked up his feet to fly

boy who picked up his feet to fly

\* Begin glissando on beat 4.

6

Musical score for the first system, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts include lyrics: "So long, good -", "Oh dear!", and "Hoo - ray!". The piano part includes a "gliss." marking. The system is marked with a box containing the number "6".

Musical score for the second system, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts include lyrics: "bye!", "Said John-ny and Jen-ny and Al - i - son".

13 *mf*

Bly \_\_\_\_\_ Fly - ing on

Bly \_\_\_\_\_ Fly - ing on

Bly \_\_\_\_\_

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*cresc.* *ff* *sub. mf*

*sfz* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

sun-beams \_\_\_\_\_ and kiss-ing the sky

*sfz* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

sun-beams \_\_\_\_\_ and kiss-ing the sky

*mf*

The

*mf*

The

The

\* Begin glissando on beat 2.

17

houses and trees all whiz-zing right by

houses and trees all whiz-zing right by

mf

As mf

As mf

As mf

mf

19

further And fast-er He flew up-on high The boy who picked up his feet to

further And fast-er He flew up-on high The boy who picked up his feet to

further And fast-er He flew up-on high The boy who picked up his feet to

further And fast-er He flew up-on high The boy who picked up his feet to

f

f

f

f

Lightly, with warmth (♩=70)

fly

fly

fly

fly

Lightly, with warmth (♩=70)

*mp*

*ped.* until after choir comes in.

*piano tacet m. 29-31*

29 Slow, deliberate, recitative (♩=70)

*mp* *sub.p*

de - serts and o - ceans and sky The moon and the

*mp* *sub.p*

de - serts and o - ceans and sky The moon and the

*mp* *sub.p*

Moun-tains and de - serts and o - ceans and sky The moon and the

*mp* *sub.p*

Moun-tains and de - serts and o - ceans and sky The moon and the

*poco rit.* **Lively** (♩=100)

sun\* and the birds that cry

*poco rit.* **Lively** (♩=100)

*mp* *mf*

\* close immediately to "n"

\*\* Soloists:

36 *mf* pah

*mf* pah

*mf* pah

*f\*\*\** pum pum pum pum pum pum pum pum

*f*

\*\* For balance a few voices may be used  
 \*\*\* "Pum" should always close immediately to "m"



44 Tutti: *f* (like birdcalls)

ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

la la

pum pum pum pum pum pum pum "No

46 *mf*

ah ah ah ah ah ah

ah ah ah ah ah ah

I'm tired. I've had my try." I'm tired. I've

more, I've had my try." "No more, I've

51 *f*

ah ah ah ah pah

ah ah ah ah pah

had my try." Said the boy who picked up his feet to fly

had my try." Said the boy who picked up his feet to fly

53

la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la

*sub. mf*

56

*mf*

Fly! Fly! Fly! Fly!

la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

60

*f cresc.*

*f* *cresc.*

Fly! Fly! Fly! Fly!

la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*a tempo*

64

*f* *molto rit.*

*ff*

Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*f* *ff*  
Won't\_ you\_ come\_ fly!!

*8va*

*f* *molto rit.*

*ff* *a tempo*

Fly!

Fly!

Fly!

Fly!

*8va*

*ff* *decresc.*

69 *f* *decresc.* *mf* *decresc.* *rit.*

71 **Slowing, relaxed** (♩=84) *mp* *rit.* until cut-off of next fermata.

75 *mp* Fly! Fly! Fly! Fly!

79 *mp* Fly! Fly! Fly! Fly!

84 *molto rit.* *p* Slow, gently (♩.=60) The boy who picked up his feet to

*molto rit.* *mp* *8va*-----

*And. until cut-off of next fermata.* *p* fly But

*p* Nev-er was a - ble to step from the sky

*8va*-----

87

A flew on and on as years passed by

T And deep in the wind you can still hear him

*(8<sup>va</sup>)*

T sigh.

*(8<sup>va</sup>)* *molto rit.*

91

*unison ppp almost imperceptible*

S ooh

T ooh

*p*

*leg.*

Decorah, July 2001

**About the composer: Joshua Shank, b. 1980**

Joshua Shank is quickly becoming recognized as a talented and innovative young composer. With his *David's Lamentation* he became the youngest composer ever published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing. His first work for winds, *Moonrise*, will be released by Daehn Publications in the spring of 2003.

His *Musica Animam Tangens* will be performed at the 2003 ACDA National Convention in New York City where Joshua will be honored by the American Choral Directors Association as the youngest composer ever awarded the coveted Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Prize. In May of 2003, he will receive a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Music Education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

**About the poet: Mark Robinson, b. 1978**

Mark Robinson is an actor/writer currently living and working in Harrisburg, PA. He is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he became cohort and friend to the composer. He holds degrees in Theatre/Dance and Music. Mark has participated in writing workshops hosted by the University of Iowa and has dabbled mostly in poetry and play-writing. His writing career continues to develop. In his life he continually follows the impulses of the wind as it flies him through a life in the theatre and arts.

**Note from the composer**

What child—or adult for that matter—has never dreamed of flying? Although the poem is somewhat dark in nature (because of the “be careful what you wish for...” mood which concludes it), the performance should be approached with one idea in mind—fun!

**The Boy Who Picked Up His Feet to Fly  
by Mark Robinson**

Soaring and spinning and touching the sky  
The boy who picked up his feet to fly  
“Hooray!”  
“Oh dear!”  
“So long, good-bye!”  
Said Johnny and Jenny and Alison Bly

Flying on sunbeams and kissing the sky  
The houses and trees all whizzing right by  
As further  
And faster  
He flew upon high  
The boy who picked up his feet to fly

Mountains and deserts and oceans and sky  
The moon and the sun and the birds that cry  
“No more,  
I’m tired.  
I’ve had my try.”  
Said the boy who picked up his feet to fly

The boy who picked up his feet to fly  
Never was able to step from the sky  
But flew on and on as years passed by  
And deep in the wind you can still hear him sigh...

Range

S A T B

SBMP 450



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