

WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?, Pick

SSA
accompanied

Who Has Seen the Wind?



text by

Christina Rossetti

music by

James Elias Pick

Note from the Composer

In setting this charming text by Christina Rossetti, my aim was to capture the depth and mood of the evocative poetry without sacrificing the concise form. The eight lines of Rossetti's text remain undisturbed, aside from a recurring wordless vocalise that calls to mind the wind blowing through the trees with varying degrees of intensity.

The piano plays a crucial role in setting the mood of the piece. My mental image for the introduction's ascending and descending arpeggios is that of a willow tree, buffeted by the wind, branches swaying and swirling. Throughout, the piano figures interlock (overlapping by one note), contributing to the swirling effect.

The piece should be sung with delicate expression and careful attention to the resolution of dissonance between voice parts. For the climax at measures 46-49, the tone should be full and free, never heavy or forced.

Rossetti cleverly changes "neither I nor you" to "neither you nor I" for the second verse. The melody mirrors this change in perspective, with the second verse inverting certain melodies from the first.

This simple poem has two powerful reminders: first, unseen things can have real effects. Just as the invisible wind moves the trees, we know that words have impact; thoughts lead to actions; music can move us. Second, we learn about the unseen by observing what we can see. The trembling leaves show us the speed and intensity of the wind; a kind and generous heart is revealed by consistent actions; we observe many qualities of an unseen creator by studying what is created.

Soli Deo Gloria.

~ James Elias Pick

Visit www.jamespick.com to contact the composer or share recordings.

Text:

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

~ Christina Rossetti

Who Has Seen the Wind?

(SSA, accompanied)

Christina Rossetti

James Elias Pick

Gently swaying, poco rubato (♩ = 58)

PIANO

mp sempre legato e espressivo

with pedal

The piano introduction is in G major, 6/8 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Gently swaying, poco rubato' with a quarter note equal to 58 beats. The dynamics are 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and the style is 'sempre legato e espressivo'. The piece is to be played 'with pedal'. The first system shows the right hand playing a series of eighth notes and the left hand playing a simple bass line.

4

mf

rit.

The second system of the piano introduction continues the melody in the right hand, which is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The left hand continues with a simple bass line. The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). The system ends with a full bar rest in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

a tempo

p unis.

mp

S1

S2

Oo

8

a tempo

p

The vocal and piano accompaniment for the first verse begins. The vocal parts (S1 and S2) are in G major, 6/8 time, marked 'a tempo' and 'p unis.' (piano, unison). The piano accompaniment is in G major, 6/8 time, marked 'a tempo' and 'p' (piano). The piano part features a simple bass line with a melody in the right hand. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'Oo' and are followed by a piano accompaniment marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The system ends with a full bar rest in the vocal parts and a half note in the piano part.

S1
S2

p dolce

14 *mp dolce*

S1
S2

Who has seen — the wind? — Nei-ther I nor

A *mp dolce*

Who has seen — the wind? — Nei-ther I nor

14

17

S1
S2

you: But when the leaves hang

A

you: But when the leaves hang

19

S1
S2

trem - bling, The wind is pass - ing through.

A

trem - bling, The wind is pass - ing through.

22

S1
S2

rit. 24 a tempo *p*

Oo

A

p

Oo

24 a tempo

rit. *mf esp.* *p*

25

S1
S2

mp

Oo

A

mp

Oo

4

28

SOLO *mp*
Oh

S1 *p*
S2 *mp*
Oo

A *p*
Oo

mp
Oo

31

SOLO

S1
S2

A

pp
sempre dolce, unaccented

WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?—SSA

34 *p*

S1
S2
A

Who has seen — the wind? — Nei-ther you nor

Who has seen — the wind? — Nei-ther you nor

37

S1
S2
A

I: — But when the trees bow

I: — But when the trees bow

39 *poco rit.*

S1
S2
A

down their heads, — The wind is pass - ing by. —

down their heads, — The wind is pass - ing by. —

poco rit.

6

42 *a tempo*
mf

S1 *Oh* *Oh*

S2 *Oh* *Oh*

A *Oh* *Oh*

42 *a tempo*
mf

45

S1 *Oh* *Ah*

S2 *Oh* *Ah*

A *Oh* *Ah*

f

48 *ff*

S1
S2

Ah

A

Ah

ff

50 *sub. p*

S1
S2

Oh

A

sub. p

Oh

50 *sub. mp*

53

S1
S2

A

rit.

mf

rit.

56

S1

S2

A

57 *a tempo* *p* *mp*

Oo

Oo

p

Oo

57 *a tempo* *p*

Preview Only

60

S1

S2

A

rit. *p*

Oo

rit.

Preview Only