

Steven Webb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Webb', with a horizontal line underneath.

Waiting

Poetry by Kagan Goh

Tenor
Piano

Program Notes:

Kagan's poem really struck home for me. While its origins came from a unique and tragic event in Canadian history, the themes of loss, and longing are universal in their impact. I tried to capture both the sense of loss that the character felt, but also his fleeting joy at the possibility of reunion with his wife.

The origin of the story begins in turmoil and the extended piano introduction reflects that, before settling down into stillness and reminiscence. The story has Japanese-Canadian origins, and I tried to use musical devices and harmonic material from both cultures, without sounding too overt in either. The piece ends like it begins, nothing has changed in the singer's life, despite his brief glimpse at happiness.

Text:

WAITING

Raindrops falling
I hear a voice calling
How long have you been waiting?
All of my life.

Is it true we met before
Some other time
Some distant shore
Is it you
I'm not quite sure
Could you be my wife?

She left me here long ago
Why? I still don't know
She said wait for me
Now I've grown old
Afraid to go on
Without my wife.

Is it true you've come back for me
I've kept my promise
Now set me free
I can die now without misery
How long have you been waiting?
All of my life.

Where have you been
I don't know
You came back for me
Now I can let go
You are the one I've been waiting for
All of my life.

Raindrops falling
I hear a voice calling
How long have you been waiting?
All of my life.

Waiting

Composed for the 2018 Art Song Lab

Kagan Goh

Steven Webb

Aggressive ♩=78

8

Aggressive ♩=78

f

7 6 3 3 3 3

3

3 3 5 6 3

Meno mosso ♩=66

5

Meno mosso ♩=66

subito p
Scrape Low Strings

3 6 5

Ped.

rit.

8

rit.

pp

Ped. Ped. Ped.

10 **Delicate** ♩=62 **Meno mosso** ♩=58

Delicate ♩=62 **Meno mosso** ♩=58

15^{ma} 8^{va}

ppp

Ped. Ped.

14 **molto rit.** **A** **A tempo** ♩=66

p

Rain drops fa - lling

molto rit. **A** **A tempo** ♩=66

mp *pp* *pp*

Srape Low Strings

Ped. Ped. Ped.

20 *poco rubato* *pp*

I hear a voice ca-lling

pp

Ped.

25

accel.

PPP una corda

8vb
Ped.

27

$\text{♩} = 78$

mf

How long have you been wait - ting? All of my

mf tres corda

29

f

life!

f

mf
Ped.

A tempo ♩=78

31 *poco rit.* *f* 3

Is it true we met be - fore Some

poco rit. *A tempo ♩=78* *tr*

34 3 *p* *mp*

o-ther time some dis-tant shore Is it you?

mp *15^{ma}* *3* *p* *3* *ff* Cluster

37 *mf* *f* 3

Is it you? I'm not

mf *f* *p* *Red.*

39 *mp*

sure _____ Could you

Ped.

40 *mf* *f* *pp*

be _____ could you be _____ my wife? _____ my wife

p *f* *pp*

Ped.

44 **B** Gentle ♩=56 *mp* *Sprechstimme*

She left me here long a - go _____ Why? I still don't know_

p

Ped.

48 **accel.** **A tempo** ♩=78 **Gentle** ♩=56 *pp molto rubato*

She said Wait for me Now I've grown old

A tempo ♩=78 **Gentle** ♩=56

mf *p*

Red.

52 *ppp* **G.P.**

a-fraid to go on

molto rubato

G.P. *p*

C **With returning strength** ♩=70 *mf*

Is it true you've come back for me I've kept my

C **With returning strength** ♩=70

p *mp*

59

pro-mise now set me free now set me free I can

f *ff*

62

die with-out mi - se-ry How long have you? How long have you been

mf *f*

66

wai-ting All of my life. Where have you been?

p *pp* *pp*

15^{ma} *3*

8^{va} *3*