

Sweet Briar Elegies

for cello ensemble and soprano saxophone

Joelle Wallach

(1992)

...I saw it was filled with graves,
And tomb-stones where flowers should be:
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars my joys and desires.

William Blake, Songs of Experience, 1794

Sweet Briar Elegies

Written in Sweet Briar, Virginia during the summer of 1992 in the aftermath of the death of the composer's husband, *Sweet Briar Elegies* is set for soprano saxophone and cello ensemble or soprano saxophone and piano. The two movements are not independent "elegies" but comprise a single elegiac whole. The first movement is a recitative of passionate wistfulness; the second movement, an aria of poignant lyricism and longing with an ominous and disturbing middle section.

The piece bears an epigram from William Blake's *Songs of Experience*:

... I saw it was filled with graves.
And tomb-stones where flowers should be:
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars my joys and desires.

William Blake, *Songs of Experience* (1794)

Since 1980 when her choral work, *On the Beach at Night Alone*, won first prize in the Inter-American Music Awards, Wallach has regularly placed first in international composition competitions. Her *String Quartet 1995* was the American Composers Alliance nominee for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Music. The New York Philharmonic Ensembles premiered her octet, *From the Forest of Chimneys*, written to celebrate their 10th anniversary; and the New York Choral Society commissioned her secular oratorio, *Toward a Time of Renewal*, for 200 voices and orchestra to commemorate their 1994 35th Anniversary Season in Carnegie Hall. *To the Fore Publishers* is pleased to publish her works for saxophone, which in addition to *Sweet Briar Elegies*, include *Eulogy*, for soprano saxophone and string quartet, and the *Saxophone Quartet*.

Ms. Wallach lives in New York City, where she was born. She was raised there and in Morocco. Her early training in piano, voice, theory, bassoon and violin included study at the Juilliard Preparatory Division, and she earned bachelors and masters degrees at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University respectively. In 1984 the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with John Corigliano, granted her its first doctorate in composition.

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Sweet Briar Elegies

I

Joelle Wallach

Misterioso, Cantabile e poco quasi Recitativo

poco stringendo

$\text{♩} = 66$

$\text{♩} = 69-72$

trano Saxophone in Bb

loncelli I

loncelli II

loncelli III

loncelli IV

mp misterioso e cantabile

poco più f e poco più agitato

pizz. *mp*

arco *poco f* *mp*

p *poco più f* *mp*

p *poco più f* *mp*

pizz. *arco* *(pizz)* *tutti arco* *mp*

ax. b.

5

dolce ma maestoso *sffz* $\text{♩} = 72$

dolce ma maestoso *mp* *sffz*

dolce ma maestoso *mp*

(1/2 pizz) *(1/2 pizz)* *tutti arco* *mf*

(1/2 pizz) *(1/2 pizz)* *tutti arco* *mf*

mfpp *(1/2 pizz)* *(1/2 pizz)* *mfpp*

9

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

poco meno f

poco

13

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

sfz

mf claro

pizz.

f claro

arco (div.)

mp

poco

17

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

più agitato ma cantabile

più dolce

più maestoso

mp cantabile

(unis.)

più dolce

pizz.

arco

arco

arco

arco

33

Sop. Sax. in Bb

ben p cantabile

Vc. I

meno sul tasto
p cantabile

Vc. II

meno sul tasto
p cantabile

Vc. III

meno sul tasto
mp cantabile

Vc. IV

ord. (ma con sord.)
mp cantabile

ord. (ma con sord. e div.)
mp

ord. (ma con sord. e div.)
mp

ord. (ma con sord.)
mp

ord. (ma con sord.)
mp

37

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

unis.

Vc. II

unis.

Vc. III

unis.

Vc. IV

pp

41

Sop. Sax. in Bb

ben p e ben dolce

Vc. I

legato similare

Vc. II

mf

Vc. III

mf

Vc. IV

mf

pp

pp

45

Sop. Sax. in B \flat

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

poco f

mp cantabile

tutti

poch. f

49

Sop. Sax. in B \flat

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

mf

mp

53

Sop. Sax. in B \flat

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mf

p

mp

mf

mp

poco f

mf

poco f

p

p

poco f

p

(whiter tone)

57

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mp *mf* *poco f* *mp*

60

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mf *mf espr.* *mf espr.* *mp* *mf espr.* *mf cantabile* *mf espr.* *mf* *(mf)*

64

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

p *(unis.)* *p* *mf espr. lontano* *p* *mp espr.* *p* *mp*

68

Sop. Sax. in B♭

mf piangere

Vc. I

f espressivo

mp

mp

mf

unis.

Vc. II

f espressivo

mp

mp

Vc. III

f espressivo

mp

mp

Vc. IV

mp

72

Sop. Sax. in B♭

mf espressivo

Vc. I

mf espressivo

p

Vc. II

mf

p

Vc. III

mf

p

Vc. IV

mp

(unis.)

(div.)

p

76

Sop. Sax. in B♭

mp

p con dignita

molto

poco ritenuto

Vc. I

pp

pp

ppp

Vc. II

mp cantabile

p cantabile

pp

ppp

Vc. III

pp

pp

ppp

Vc. IV

pp

ppp

Luminoso

10

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *pp* (*pp*) *dolcissimo* *poco espres.*

Vc. I *sul tasto* *pp* (unis.) ord. I *mp espres.* (unis.)

Vc. II *sul tasto* *pp* ord. *mp espres.*

Vc. III *pp* *sul tasto* ord. *mp espres.*

Vc. IV *pp* unis. V *mp espres.*

13

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *mp espres.*

Vc. I *mp*

Vc. II *mp*

Vc. III *mp*

Vc. IV *poco p*

16

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *pp lirico*

Vc. I *pp* *p lontano* *p lirico*

Vc. II *pp* *p lirico*

Vc. III *pp* *p lontano* *p lirico*

Vc. IV *mp* *pp* *p lirico*

19

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

p espr.

mp

mp

mp

poco

22

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

poco f espr.

poco f espr. cantabile

poco f espr. cantabile

(unis.)

(h)

(h)

(h)

25

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mp

poco f

poch. f

poch. f

(unis.)

(unis.)

(h)

(h)

(h)

38

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *p* *chiamata lontano* *p* *cantabile*

Vc. I *mp* *cantabile* *p*

Vc. II *p* *p cantabile*

Vc. III *mp* *ominoso*

Vc. IV (div.) *p* (unis.) 3

42

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *mf* *poco f espr.*

Vc. I *mf* *poco f espr.*

Vc. II *mf* *mp cantabile*

Vc. III *mp cantabile*

Vc. IV (unis.) 3 *mp* 3

45

Sop. Sax. in B \flat

Vc. I *ominoso*

Vc. II 3

Vc. III 3

Vc. IV 3 (unis.) 3

poco più agitato

a tempo ma strano, soprannaturale

48

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mp

non-divisi

ominoso

(solo harmonics)

gli altri p legato (solo harmonics)

gli altri sul tasto legato

sul tasto legato

ord. ma ominoso

p

mp ominoso (p)

51

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mp

(tutti ma div.) ord. ma ominoso

(unis.)

p strano

ord. ma ominoso

(p)

ord. ma ominoso

(div.)

ord. ma ominoso (p)

(unis.)

54

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

f

fmp

mf

mf

poco

fmp

mf

(unis.) 3

mf

mp

ominoso

mf

mf cantabile

f

poco

fmp

mf

mf

cantabile

mf

57

Sop. Sax. in B♭

mp *ominoso* *mf* *poco parlando ma ben espressivo* *f*

Vc. I

(unis.) *mf* *f*

Vc. II

mp *ominoso* *mf* *poco parlando ma ben espressivo* *f*

Vc. III

p *misterioso e pazzo* *ominoso* (unis.) *mf* *poco parlando ma ben espressivo* *f*

Vc. IV

mf *f*

60

Sop. Sax. in B♭

f

Vc. I

(unis.) *mf* *f*

Vc. II

mp *ominoso* *mf* *ominoso*

Vc. III

mp *ominoso* (unis.) *mf* *ominoso*

Vc. IV

I & II *mp* *ominoso* *mf* *ominoso*

63

Sop. Sax. in B♭

ff *f*

Vc. I

mf *f* *mf*

Vc. II

mf *f* *mf*

Vc. III

mf *f* *mf*

Vc. IV

mf *f* *mf*

66

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

ff *molto* *mp* *pp luminoso lontano* *p*

ff *molto* *mp* *pp luminoso lontano*

ff *molto* *mp* *pp*

ff *molto* *mp* *pp* *mp ominoso* *pp*

70

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

cantabile *dolce*

(unis.)

(unis.)

(unis.)

73

Sop. Sax. in Bb

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

pp

mp con ardore *(unis.)*

mp con ardore *(unis.)*

76

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *mf cantabile*

Vc. I *mp* (unis.) 3

Vc. II *mp* 3 (unis.)

Vc. III 3

Vc. IV (unis.) 3

79

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *mp* *mf* *p misterioso lontano*

Vc. I (unis.) *pp*

Vc. II *pp*

Vc. III *pp*

Vc. IV (unis.) *molto* *ben p lontano*

83

Sop. Sax. in B \flat *mf espres. cantabile*

Vc. I *mp*

Vc. II *p* *mp* 3 *mf 3 espres. cantabile* (unis.)

Vc. III *mf espres.* 3 (unis.)

Vc. IV *legatis.* 3 *mf espres.* 3 (unis.)

86

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

mp dolce espr.

p dolce lontano

p dolce lontano

p dolce lontano

mp dolce espr. (unis.)

p dolce lontano

90

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

(unis.)

93

Sop. Sax. in B♭

Vc. I

Vc. II

Vc. III

Vc. IV

ritardando

p

pp

ppp

ppp

pp

pizz.

p

ppp

ppp