

Four Winter Postcards,
Op. 9

Chris Finlayson

For Soprano voice with Orchestra
accompaniment.

Scored for Soprano Voice & Orchestra
(Piccolo, Flute, Cor Anglais, 2 Clarinets in B-flat,
Bass Clarinet, 2 Bassoons, Contrabassoon,
2 Horns, Trumpet, Tenor Trombone,
Bass Trombone, Tuba, Gong, Tubular Bells,
Vibraphone, Celesta, Piano, Harp & Strings)

I. Andante

II. Largo

III. Maestoso - Allegro

IV. Lento moderato

This song-cycle was composed for my
AS-level music portfolio in 1992,
as combined with some poetic doodles
from my school English classes.

This is an orchestration of the reconstructed version
of the original score with piano accompaniment, Opus 1g.

Postcard #1

I feel a chill from the North.
It draws upon the lifeblood of nature.
Take cover, take cover creatures all,
for the cold has come to stalk you.
It lies in wait, ready to emerge,
as winter's cloak descends.

Postcard #2

Behold! A shroud of frost,
clinging, choking, covering.
How dead the world looks under
its carpet of dazzling white.

The ice spreads its crooked claws
to the four corners of the land.
Leaving its magic and mystic patterns
like a web of lace in the dim light.

Postcard #3

The winds freeze my vulnerable bones.
How they sting like vile nettles in the woods.
I now long for the warmth of spring
to escape from nature's almighty scourge

Postcard #4

The first snowflake hovers low.
It drifts on the wings of the breeze.
It flies as free as a bird.

How deftly and silently it travels.
Until it finally sinks calmly down
and lands softly on the icy grass.

(Text; Chris Finlayson, 1992)

I. Postcard #1

Andante ♩ = 84 **molto rit.** **a tempo**

Piccolo

Flute

Cor Anglais

Clarinets in B♭ 1
2

Bass Clarinet in B♭

Bassoons 1
2

Contrabassoon

Horns in F 1
2

Trumpet in B♭

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Gong

Tubular Bells

Xylophone

Vibraphone

Celesta

Piano

Harp

Soprano Solo

Andante ♩ = 84
Con sordino **molto rit.** **a tempo** (senza sord.)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

I feel a chill from the North. It draws up-on the life blood

15 rit. a tempo

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Gong

Hp. 1

S. Solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

of na - ture. Take co-ver, take co - ver crea - tures all. For the cold has come to stalk you.

rit. a tempo

pp

p

mp

div.

II. Postcard #2

1 Largo (♩=40)

Fl. *p* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

B. Cl. *p* *pp* *pp*

Bsn. *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

Cbsn. *p* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

Tpts. *p* *pp*

Gong *pp*

Pno. *pp* *ppp*

Hp. 1 *p* *pp*

S. Solo *p* *pp* *p*

Be - hold! A shroud of frost, cling - ing chok-ing co ver-ing

Largo (♩=40)

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp*

Db. *p* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

15

Cl. *solo*
p *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Tba. *pp*

Gong *pp*

Cel. *p*

Pno. *ppp*
(8).....1

S. Solo *p* *mp* *p* *pp*
How dead the world looks un - der its car - pet of daz - ling white. The ice spreads its crook-ed

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp* (*pp*)

29

Cbsn. *pp*

Hn. *con sord.* *ppp*

Tpts. *con sord.* *ppp*

Tba.

Pno. *ppp*

S. Solo *ppp*
claws, to the four cor-ners of the land. Leav - ing its ma - gic and mys - tic

Vla. *ppp*

Db.

36

Cbsn.

Hn.

Tpts.

Gong

Tub. B.

Vib.

Cel.

Pno.

Hp. 1

S. Solo

Vla.

Db.

pat - terns like a web of lace in the dim light.

pp

ppp

p

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

III. Postcard #3

Maestoso **Allegro, poco agitato**

1 a2

Bsn. *ff* *f* *mf*

Cbsn. *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Hn. (senza sord.) *ff* *f* *mf*

Tpts. (senza sord.) *ff* *f* *mf*

Tbn. *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

B. Tbn. *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Tba. *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Xyl. *p* *mf*

Hp. 1 *f* *mp* *f*

S. Solo *f*
The__ winds

Maestoso **Allegro, poco agitato**

Vln. I (tutti) *mf* *pizz.* *p* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

13

Picc.

Fl.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

Hp. 1

S. Solo
freeze my vul - ne - ra - ble bones. How - they - sting like vi - le net - tles in the wood.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f *ff* *f* *f* *ff* *f* *f* *ff* *f* *f* *ff* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

poco accel. **Maestoso (Tempo I)** **Adagio (♩=72)**

Picc. *ff* *f* *ff*

Fl. *ff* *f* *ff*

C. A.

Bsn. *a2* *ff marcato* *fff* *pp*

Cbsn. *ff* *fff*

Hn. *fff*

Tpts. *fff*

Tbn. *fff*

B. Tbn. *fff*

Tba. *fff*

Gong

Tub. B. *fff*

Xyl. *ff* *f* *ff*

Vib. *ff* *f* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *f* *ff* *fff*

Hp. I *ff* *f* *ff*

S. Solo *pp*
I now long for the warmth of spring to es -

Vln. I *f* *ff*

Vln. II *ff* *f* *ff* *arco, con sord. ppp sotto voce*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff marcato*

Db. *ff*

33 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

C. A. *p*

Bsn. *pp* *p*

Cbsn. *p*

Hn. *p*

Tpts. *p*

Tbn. *p*

B. Tbn. *p*

Tba. *p*

Cel. *ppp*

Hp. 1 *pp* *p*

S. Solo *p*
cape from na-tures al-migh-ty scourge.

Vln. I *arco, con sord.* *ppp* *poco rit.* *a tempo* (senza sord.)

Vln. II (senza sord.)

Vla. *p*

Vc. *Con sord.* *ppp sotto voce* *pp* (senza sord.)

IV. Postcard #4

1 **Lento Moderato** (♩ = 48)

Picc. *pppp* *ppp*

Fl. *ppp* *p* *mp*

Cl. 1. *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

B. Cl. *pp*

Bsn. *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

Hp. 1 *ppp*

S. Solo *pp sotto voce* *p* *pp*
 The first snow-flake ho-vers low. It drifts on the wings of the breeze. It flies as free as a bird.

Lento Moderato (♩ = 48)

Vln. I *sfppp* *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *ppp*

Db. *ppp* *pp*

16 **poco rit.** **a tempo**

B. Cl. *pp*

Cel. *pp*

Hp. 1 *pp* *pp*

S. Solo *pp sotto voce*
 How deft-ly and si-lent-ly it tra-vels un-til it fi-nal-ly sinks

poco rit. **a tempo**

Vln. I *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *pizz.*

Db. *ppp* *ppp* *pizz.*

