

Winter, Snow program note

It was hard to find the perfect text for the 2005-2006 Minnesota All-State Women's Choir. I tried writing words to fit the bright B major chords I was hearing, but only got as far as three lines about winter. Then I found the lovely "Snow" by the Edwardian British poet Edward Thomas and decided to contrast the cold brightness of my lyrics with the soft snowy whiteness of Thomas's lines. The result is an other-worldly little waltz for treble voices and piano.

WINTER

Winter, bright light,
cold flame of renewal,
music of ice.
Carol Barnett

SNOW

In the gloom of whiteness,
In the great silence of snow,
A child was sighing
And bitterly saying: "Oh,
They have killed a white bird up there on her nest,
The down is fluttering from her breast!"
And still it fell through the dusky brightness
On the child crying for the bird of the snow.
Edward Thomas (1878-1917)