



Dear Friends,

First and foremost, we can't begin to express how excited we are to be performing for you again! Sunday, September 26th will mark the first time we've come together onstage as an orchestra since March of 2020, and we have something truly amazing planned for you. This concert has been carefully curated for our return to performance as it represents everything you have come to expect from a Kingston Symphony live performance: New discoveries, deeply emotional music, and fantastic artistry onstage.

Naturally, the continuation of our Beethoven cycle was a priority, and so the inclusion of Beethoven's 8th symphony is no surprise. But I wanted to take a moment to help you foster a connection with one of the other pieces on the program, which you're likely to be encountering for the first time.

Come Closer is a 2018 song cycle written on texts by Elizabeth Krehm. Elizabeth tragically passed away at the age of 22, and her sister, soprano Rachel Krehm, commissioned composer Ryan Trew to create an art song cycle based on Elizabeth's writings. The result is an unspeakably personal and stunningly beautiful tribute to Elizabeth's memory, buoyed by Elizabeth's own remarkable writings from age 7-18. From grade school poems to free-form prose to couplets lifted from Elizabeth's journals, Trew's incredible music cradles a series of texts unlike any other in all of art song, and I wanted to share those texts with you today. It's bittersweet because it's a stark acknowledgement of a great talent lost, but more importantly, this piece serves as a true and honest celebration of Elizabeth's brilliant creative output during her short life.

Below are the texts which comprise Come Closer, all of them selected by Rachel herself. I hope you read them and smile. Elizabeth may no longer be with us, but this music certainly is, and I guarantee you will be moved by this truly exquisite song cycle, sung by Elizabeth's sister herself.

These sorts of experiences are part of the genetic makeup of every Kingston Symphony concert, and we wanted to reassure you that in spite of some "time off," we are still in peak form! Join us on Sunday the 26th. It's going to be very, very special.

Warmly,

Evan Mitchell

Come Closer - Songs on Texts by Elizabeth Krehm

1 - Magic Mountains (Winner of a Grade 3 writing competition)

Magic mountains are floating by.
Seagulls flowing behind them.
The moon glistens in the sky,
While magic mountains are floating by.
“Splish, splash” the seals are swimming in a flash.
The wind is very fond of magic mountains floating by.
Magic streaks are in the air,
Roses sparkle everywhere.
The eagle sings on the beach,
While hearts dance in the sand.
Starfish sparkle everywhere and then it's night.

2 - Snow (Written in Grade 2)

Snow is like
life appearing
Snow is like you
feel like screaming
Snow oh
Snow so c-c-cold
It makes your
Heart go bumpity
Bump bump it's
So freezing cold.
SNOW!!

3 - My Favourite Place (From Elizabeth's journals)

I can hear the wind blowing through the branches of the birch trees, singing as I climb down one of its trunks. I make my way out of the great forest into blades of grass so thick and tall I feel even more enclosed. The sound of cicadas is so obnoxious, the beauty of the place is almost destroyed. I make my way through this never-ending field of grass, until I reach a tiny, worn-down dirt path. The path is rocky, and in one section an army of ants viciously attacks scraps of food left behind. Somehow, after hours and hours of aimless walking, I'm not sure how - but I come to a clearing. I am greeted with a forest of white birch, with a remarkable treehouse on the edge. I climb the ladder; making sure I skip over

the missing step and crawl to the window. Light enters, and casts an iridescent glow across the open field. I am home.

4 - Intermezzo (From Elizabeth's journals)

A child walking home to the inner city
Lost in an open room.

5 - I Wonder (From Elizabeth's journals)

Friend,
my enemy
I call you out!
You,
there with a bad thorn in your side
You,
there with a winning sort of air,
who pawned the lie on me when he looked at my shyest secrets
with my whole heart under your hammer.
I loved you for your faults as much as for your good.
My friend,
you were an enemy upon stilts with your head stuck in a
cunning cloud.
How many arms have held you, and hated to let you go?
How many, I wonder,
but I really don't want to know.
How many lips have kissed you,
and set your soul aglow?
How many
how many, I wonder,
but I really don't want to know.
So always make me wonder, and always make me guess
And even if I ask you,
Oh darling don't confess!
Just let it remain your secret
For darling I love you so
No wonder
no wonder
I wonder 'cause I really don't want to know.

6 - Come Closer (From Elizabeth's journals)

Every rose has its thorns,
From a distance, this rose is perfect
captivating beauty in every way.
Come closer.
The petals come together too tightly
protecting a bud blossoming too fast for its own good
I am covered in thorns.
Come closer.
"It's always darkest before dawn"

7 - Fantasy (From Elizabeth's journals)

If you've ever felt like you wanted to cry,
Just close your eyes and look to the sky
because in the sky everything's calm
everything fits in the size of your palm.

Come up with me and soar;
up here there's so much more
no one's sad or mad
Up here, everyone's glad!

So come up into the sky with me,
everything will be as pleasant as can be
for up here people are treated fair
people are treated with respect and care

I'm glad I'm in the sky,
for I will never die
but one day I'll have to face my fears
not now or then, but soon my dears.