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## INSTRUMENTATION

Oboe  
Soprano  
Piano

Duration: c. 4'

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

Sprechgesang = speech-song

This is to be half-spoken, half-sung, *quasi recitando*.

The music notation is represented by an X through  
the stem of the note.



## PROGRAM NOTES

The text is based on the poem, "The First Christmas Without Her," by Lois Duncan. This poem captures the emotions of the poet on the first Christmas after the mysterious murder of her daughter, Kaitlyn Arquette. It brings hope and comfort to all who have grieved a tragic loss.

Many thanks to the Duncan family for the rights to publish this poem in honor of their mother.

This poem can be found in Lois Duncan's book, *Seasons of the Heart*.

Some pages are missing to protect copyright.

### The First Christmas Without Her

When I was young they used to tell  
About a star that shone one night.  
It led the Shepherds from their fields  
And filled their paths with crystal light.

I loved the tale when I was small,  
But now I am a woman grown.  
I have walked far on lonely trails  
And groped through darkness of my own.

I've learned, I hope to brave the dark,  
Yet sometimes still, when God seems far -  
The house is still, the world's asleep,  
And night is long and cold and deep -  
I like to think about the star.

~Lois Duncan~

*from Seasons of the Heart, "Winter"*

Full Score

Dedicated to the memory of Lois Duncan and daughter Kaitlyn

# I Think About the Star

“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS WITHOUT HER”

WORDS: LOIS DUNCAN  
Adapted by Composer

JUDITH MARKOVICH

*Dolce* ♩ = 76 SOLO (with pn.)

Oboe

Soprano

Piano

5

A Con moto ♩ = 84

When I was young

*p* *mp* *pp*

*pp*

*pp*

(*Red.*) (*Red.*)

9 rit.....

Ob.

Sop. *mf*

— they used to tell — a-bout a star that shone one

Pno *p* *mp*

(Ped.)

13 B Con moto (♩ = 84)

Ob. *mf* 3 3 *p* *p*

Sop. *p*

night. — A star, a star that

Pno *p*

17

Ob.

Sop.

shone one night, a star, a star of

Pno

21  $\text{♪} = \text{♪} \quad 3+2+2/8$

Ob. *p sub.*

Sop. *p sub.*  
crys - - - - tal light.

Pno *pp sub.*  
*Red.*

25 C

Ob. *mp*  
(with pn.)

Sop.

Pno (oboe leads) *p*  
*Red.*

29

Ob. *p*

Sop. *mp*  
It led the shep - herds from their fields and

Pno

33 D

Ob. *p* *mf*

Sop. fill'd their paths with crys-tal light. It led the shep-herds from their fields and

Pno *p* *cresc.*

37

Ob. *mf* *p sub.*

Sop. fill'd their paths with crys - tal light.

Pno *pp sub.* *mp*

*Red.*

41 E

Ob. *p* *mp*

Sop. I loved the tale when I was

Pno *pp* *mp*

*Red.*

45

Ob. *p* *mf*

Sop. small, but now I am a

Pno

48

Ob. *mf* *mp* rit.....  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  3+2+2/8

Sop. wo - - man grown.

Pno *mf*

51

Ob. *mp* Rubato  $\text{♩} = 84$

Sop. I have

Pno *p*

55 F

Ob. *p* *p*

Sop. walked far on lone-ly trails and groped through dark - ness

Pno *pp*

58

Ob. *pp* *mf*

Sop. of my own. I've walked far on lone-ly trails and groped through dark - ness

Pno *mp* *mf*

62

Ob. *p* sub. *mp* cresc.

Sop. of my own. I've

Pno *pp* sub. *Red.*



65 G

Ob. *mf*

Sop. *cresc.* *f*

learned, I hope to brave the dark, I've learned, I hope to brave the

Pno *mp* *mf*

69 H Freely (♩ = 92)

Ob. *mf*

Sop. *mf*

dark, yet some-times... still,

Pno *p* *mp* (*p*)

73

Ob.

Sop. *p*

when God seems far,

Pno *pp*

*Red.*

77

Ob.

(spoken at will with feeling)

Sop. *p*  $\overset{\frown}{3}$   $\overset{\frown}{3}$   $\overset{\frown}{3}$   $\overset{\frown}{3}$

(the house is still, the world's a - sleep, and night is long and cold and deep,) I

Pno

82 Freely (♩ = 72) I Con moto (♩ = 84)

Ob.

SUNG

Sop.  $\overset{\frown}{3}$   $\overset{\frown}{3}$  *mp*

think a-bout, I think a-bout, the star, the star that

Pno

*p*

85

Ob.

Sop.

shone one night, the star, the star with

Pno

89

Ob. *mf* *p* *mp*

Sop. *mf* *p* *mp*

Pno *mp*

crys - tal light. The first Christ-mas with - out her, the

93

Ob. *f* *f*

Sop. *f*

Pno *mf* *pp*

rall. poco a poco.....

first Christ-mas with - out her,

*Red.*

96

Ob. *p* *mf*

Sop. *p* *mf*

Pno *p*

I think a - bout the star.

*8va*

*Red.*

# *Judith Pauley Markovich, Composer*

ORCHESTRAL WORKS	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WWGH1015—WE WILL GLORIFY HIM</b> SA Choir (Spoken and Sung) Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Cello, Contrabass, 2 Snares</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HITD1017—HALLELUJAH IN THE DARKNESS</b> Flutes (2), Oboes (2), Bb Clarinets (2), Bassoon, Harp Percussion, Piano, Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, SATB Chorus, Strings Chorus and Piano Reduction available</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EM1018—EMERGENCE</b> Full Orchestra and Fire Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LAM1019—THE LAMB</b> Chamber Orchestra</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CRSC1028—CORNERSTONE CONCERTO</b> Viola and Orchestra</p>	
CHAMBER WORKS	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TLG1013—THE LOOKING GLASS: A Contemporary Dance Suite</b> Chamber Ensemble (13): Woodwind Quintet plus Trumpet, Timpani, Djembe, Congas, Drum Set, Tubular Bells, String Bass</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BTNW1018—BEYOND THE NOBLE WAY</b> Brass Quintet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LAM1019—LAMENT</b> Piano Quintet and Empty Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TM1020—THREE MINIATURES</b> Viola Solo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TDD1021—THE DABBLING DUCK</b> English Horn and Cello  Arranged for: Viola and Cello   English Horn and Bassoon   Clarinet and Bassoon   Two Cellos   Clarinet and Cello</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REM1022—REMEMBER</b> For: Viola, Piano, Chimes   Clarinet, Piano, Chimes   English Horn, Piano, Chimes   Piano, Chimes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CRSS1023—CORNERSTONE SONATA</b> Viola and Piano  <b>CRSS1023cp</b> Clarinet (A or Bb) and Piano</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CADG1024—CAME A DROP GENTLY</b> Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, English Horn, Piano   Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, Clarinet (A), Piano   Mezzo, Tenor, Viola, Piano   Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, Cello, Piano</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ITAS1025—I THINK ABOUT A STAR</b> Oboe, High Soprano, and Piano</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CFW1026—A CALL FROM THE WOODS</b> Viola Solo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RP1040—RESTING PLACE</b> For Classical Guitar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VLKS1029—VOICES LONG KEPT SILENT</b> Solo Cello</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DW1042—DEEP WITHIN</b> Solo Piano</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>XRS1044—CROSSROADS SONATA NO. 2</b> Viola and Piano</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF1043—ICE &amp; FURY: A PASSACAGLIA</b> Solo Violin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF1043a—ICE &amp; FURY: A PASSACAGLIA</b> Solo Viola <b>IF1043a</b> Solo Cello</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WWF1047—WHEN WORDS FAIL</b> Viola and Harp   Clarinet and Harp Viola and Piano   Clarinet and Piano Viola and Strings   Clarinet and Strings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OMS1049—Oh my son....</b> Tenor, Violin, Clarinet, Timpani, Piano</p>

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