

SCOTT BLASCO

ROCKINGSONG

FOR VOICE WITH OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC ACCOMPANIMENT

2017

ROCKINGSONG (2017)

by Scott Blasco

DURATION c. 5'00"

PROGRAM NOTE:

ROCKINGSONG is an adaptation of a lullaby I sang to my children when they were infants. The optional accompaniment is made from recordings of the heirloom rocking chair in which we spent countless hours—a chair in which my wife was rocked as a baby, as was her father before her, and his father earlier yet. The setting is wordless, intended for humming or other wordless vocalizations as one might use when lulling a little one to sleep.

Rockingsong was commissioned by Megan Ihnen for her wonderful crowdfunded recording project “Sleep Songs: Wordless Lullabies for the Sleepless.”

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

RHYTHM should be interpreted very freely, with emphasis on a relaxed, unhurried unfolding of the line rather than an attempt to at a precise translation of note durations. Allow time for breath and some silence between phrases while remaining reasonably constant.

In the “original practice,” the three main components of the lullaby were repeated freely and as many times as needed — often much longer than might have been preferred by a parent sorely in need of sleep or a glass of wine (or both). The performer should feel free to add or alter repetitions as desired for a particular setting.

Rather than simply humming the whole tune, the performer may substitute other syllables (or even words) as desired.

The **ACCOMPANIMENT** is optional but preferred. It is provided as a software program in two formats (Max file and standalone application) rather than as a fixed audio file in order to accommodate performances of various durations. To use it, click **SETTINGS** to set the correct audio output (there is no input needed), then click **AUDIO OFF** to turn on sound. Click the big **X** button to begin playback and adjust the volume as needed. Relative to the voice, the volume of the accompaniment should be somewhat understated (it’s an old rocking chair, but it’s not so loud that it would keep a baby from falling asleep!).

For Megan Ihnen

ROCKINGSONG

for voice with optional electronic accompaniment

SCOTT BLASCO

*Start accomp,
let play a bit...*

p (hum throughout)

mp x3 :

p

mp x3 :

x2 :

x2 :

p *Let play a bit,
then stop accomp*