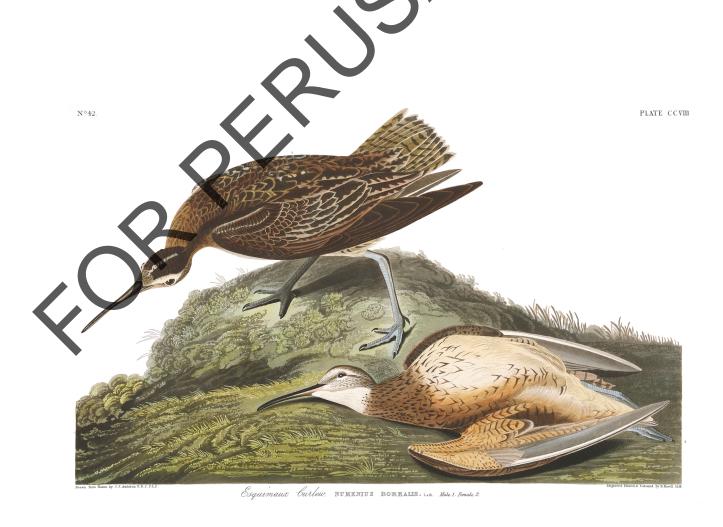
### Edie Hill

# ESKIMO CURLEW

from Spectral Spirits

for SSAATTB chorus



FOR PERUSAL ONLY

#### Program Note

Fred Bodsworth's *Last of the Curlews*, first published by Dodd, Mead & Company in 1955, was a fictionalized account of a real situation. Eskimo Curlews were dangerously close to extinction back then. The last photograph of the bird was taken in 1963. There was a confirmed sighting in Nebraska in 1987.



#### The Naming

Numenius borealis. Swiftwing. Sweetgrass. Little Sicklebill.

#### Eskimo Curlew

I grew up reading *The Last of the Curlews* before bed, your crescent-moon beak beckoning me north.

Even then you were almost gone, though millions of you once filled the skies, migrating from the northern tundra

to South America, feeding on grasshoppers along the way. Within twenty years, your vast flocks were brought down

by market hunters, fire suppression, tilling of the prairies, eradication of grasshoppers. Before hunting was banned,

two million curlews were killed each year. Here's the part that still makes me weep:

You were wiped out because you stayed by your fallen companion; from you

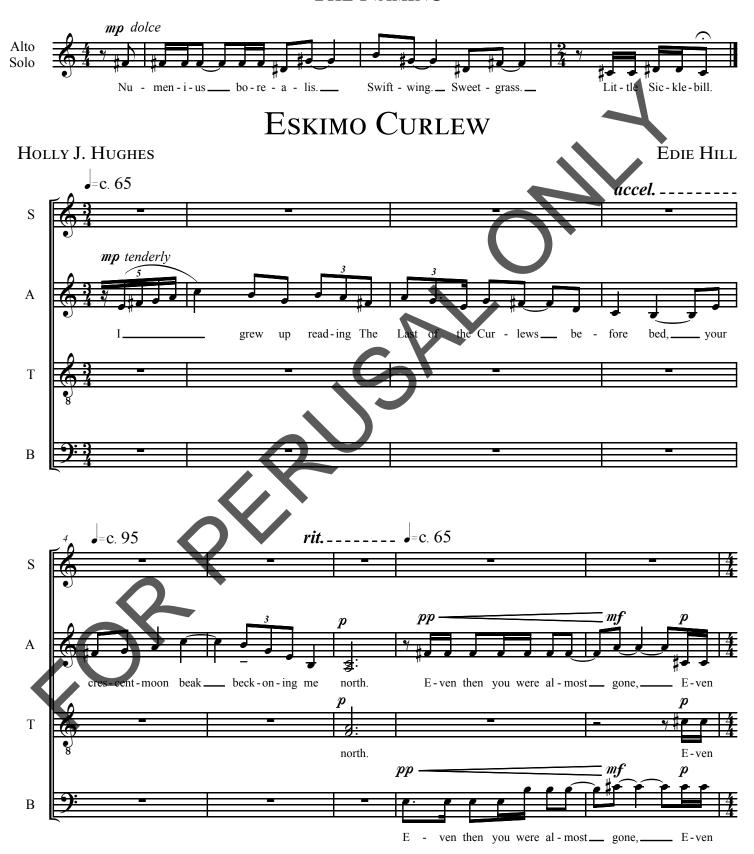
I learned what loyalty means. Today, birders search for you along Galveston's shore

sometimes catch a glimpse, memory being so strong No one knows for sure you're gone. You live on

in the pages of a book, a waning crescent moon.

Poetry from *Passings* by Holly J. Hughes Permission granted by Holly J. Hughes. First Published by Expedition Press 2016; Republished by Wandering Aengus Press, 2019

#### THE NAMING





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till - ing of the prai - ries, \_\_\_

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Described as "...bold...radiant, deftly crafted..." (Musical America), Edie Hill's music is performed all over the world. Venues have included Lincoln Center, Met Cloisters (NYC), Carnergie's Weill Recital Hall (NYC), Musis Sacrum in Arnhem, Holland, LA County Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Minneapolis' Walker Arts Center, St. Paul's Schubert Club, Berwald Hall (Stockholm Sweden), Liviu Cultural Center (Romania), Feszek Müvészklub (Budapest), St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City).

A three-time McKnight Artist Fellow and a two-time Bush Artist Fellow, Hill has received grants from the Jerome

Foundation, ASCAP, New Music USA, Meet The Composer, Minnesota State Arts Board, Chamber Music America, and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, She has a B.A. from Bennington College and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Minnesota.

Composer in Residence at Schubert Club from 2005-2017, she ran and grew the Mentorship Program for high school composers. She was Composer Mentor for MN Varsity for composers 14-18 years of age co-sponsored by The American Composers Forum and Classical Minnesota Public Radio. The album, *Born: music of Edie Hill and Michael Gilbertson* won the 2023 GRAMMY® for "Best Choral Performance" for The Crossing (Donald Nally, conductor). She has lectured at colleges, universities and various institutions in the States and abroad.

For Hill, writing music is an opportunity to research, learn, muse, reach down deep, and allow inspiration to come from the stuff of life. Her compositions are fueled by her experiences, passions and curiosities.

for complete biography as well as works for perusal and sale, visit ediehill.com



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