

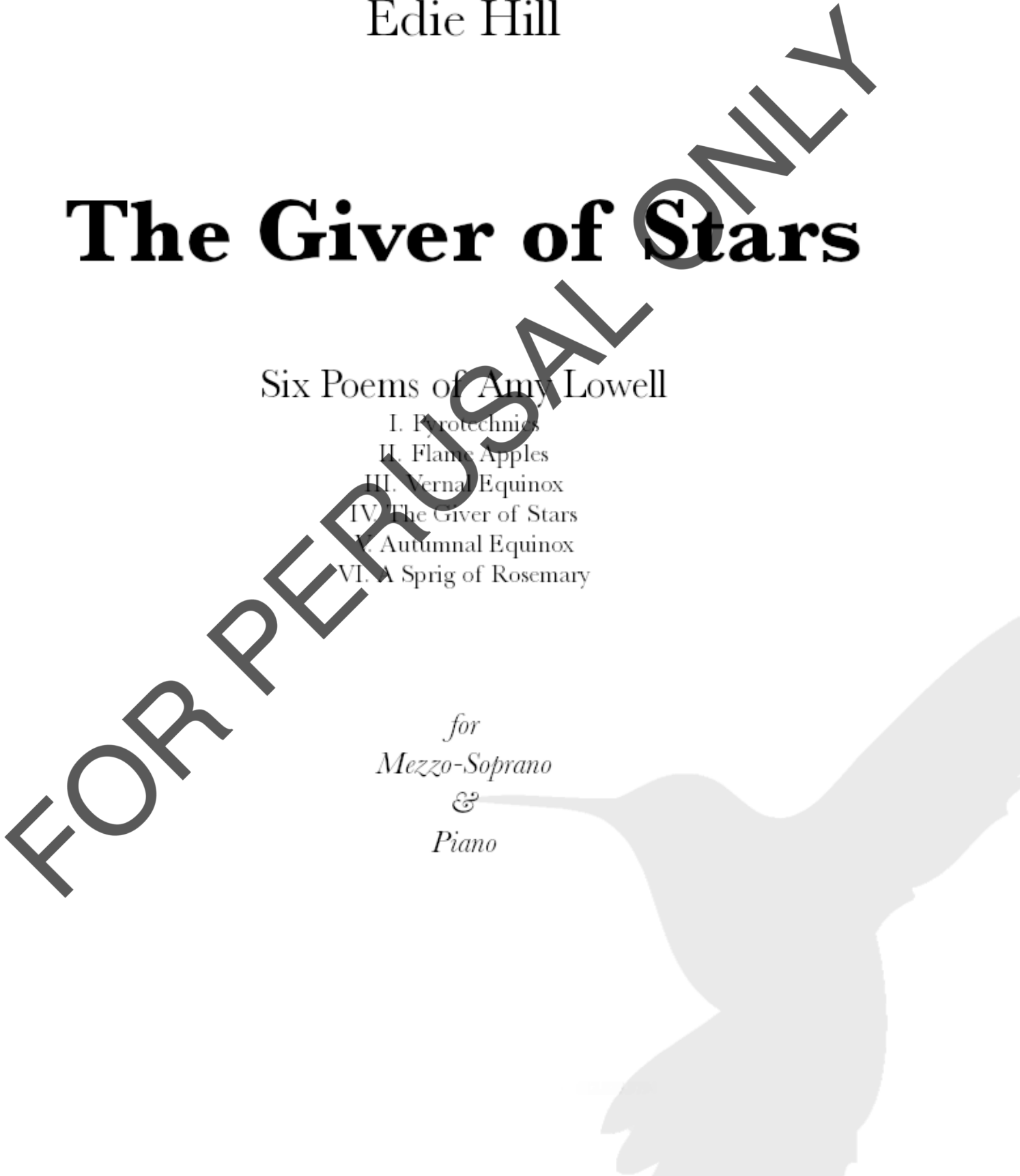
Eddie Hill

The Giver of Stars

Six Poems of Amy Lowell

- I. Pyrotechnics
- II. Flame Apples
- III. Vernal Equinox
- IV. The Giver of Stars
- V. Autumnal Equinox
- VI. A Sprig of Rosemary

for
Mezzo-Soprano
&
Piano



FOR PERUSAL ONLY

The Giver of Stars
Six Poems of Amy Lowell

Excerpted from the music drama, *Amy Lowell: a Rare Pattern*
(Hummingbird Press, 2002)

I. Pyrotechnics

Our meeting was like the upward swish of a rocket
In the blue night.
I do not know when it burst;
But now I stand gaping,
In a glory of falling stars.

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

II. Flame Apples

Little hot apples of fire,
Burst out of the flaming stem
Of my heart,
I do not understand how you quickened and grew,
And you amaze me
While I gather you.

I lay you, one by one,
Upon a table.
And now you seem beautiful and strange to me,
And I stand before you,
Wondering.

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

III. Vernal Equinox

The scent of hyacinths, like a pale mist, lies between
me and my book;
And the South Wind, washing through the room,
Makes the candles quiver.
My nerves sting at a spatter of rain on the shutter,
And I am uneasy with the thrusting of green shoots
Outside, in the night.

Why are you not here to overpower me with your
tense and urgent love?

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

IV. The Giver of Stars

Hold your soul open for my welcoming.
Let the quiet of your spirit bathe me
With its clear and rippled coolness,
That, loose-limbed and weary, I find rest,
Outstretched upon your peace, as on a bed of ivory.

Let the flickering flame of your soul play all about me,
That into my limbs may come the keenness of fire,
The life and joy of tongues of flame,
And, going out from you, tightly strung and in tune,
I may rouse the blear-eyed world,
And pour into it the beauty which you have begotten.

from *Sword Blades and Poppy Seed*

V. Autumnal Equinox

Why do you not sleep, Beloved?

It is so cold that the stars stand out of the sky
Like golden nails not driven home.
The fire crackles pleasantly,
And I sit here listening
For your regular breathing from the room above.

What keeps you awake, Beloved?
Is it the same nightmare that keeps me strained with
listening
So that I cannot read?

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

VI. A Sprig of Rosemary

I cannot see your face.
When I think of you,
It is your hands which I see.
Your hands
Sewing,
Holding a book,
Resting for a moment on the sill of a window.
My eyes keep always the sight of your hands,
But my heart holds the sound of your voice,
And the soft brightness which is your soul.

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

THE GIVER OF STARS: SIX POEMS OF AMY LOWELL

AMY LOWELL

dedicated to the artistry of Glenda Maurice

EDIE HILL

I. Pyrotechnics

Freely
black key gliss. 15^{ma} -- -- loco

ff white key gliss. 15^{ma} -- -- loco

ff *fff* *ppp*

♩ = c.120
magical, like the flowering of a firework coming out of the blast

5 *mf* in glorious suspension

Our meet - ing was like the

9 *f* *ff*

up - ward swish of a rock - et In the blue night.

13 *mp* *mf*

I do not know when it burst; but

17 *mf*

now I stand gap - - - ing,

20 *f* *freely* *molto rall.* *mp*

gap - - - ing, in a glo - - - ry of

25 $\text{♩} = 88-100$ *p* *rall. poco a poco*

fall - ing stars.

rall. poco a poco *loco* *pp* *ppp*

II. Flame Apples

$\text{♩} = c.84-88$ *Joyfully, with wonder* ***f***

$\text{♩} = c.84-88$
joyfully, staccato

mf

Ad.

Lit - tle — hot — ap - ples of

4

fire, Burst out of the flam - - - - ing

7

rit. ----- $\text{♩} = 72$ ***p***

stem Of my heart, I do not un-der-stand-how you quick-ened and

rit. ----- $\text{♩} = 72$ ***p***

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available for purchase.

17 *p* $\text{♩} = 58, \text{ freely}$ *p* *mf* *p*

strange to me, And I stand be-fore you, Won - - - - der -

like little bells

pp

22 *mp*

ing, Won - - - - der -

gently

24

ing,

rall. 26 *p*

Won - - - - der - ing.

rall.

III. VERNAL EQUINOX

♩=c.54 *p*

The scent of hy-a-cinths, like a pale— mist,—

Begin almost niente (not all notes need to sound at first)
begin slowly, accel. ad lib. (but do not play too fast) *(as is)* *ppp*

pppp *pp* *(play creating a thin layer of color)* *(continue in left hand)*

Red. *sim.*
(clear ad lib. if color gets too muddy)

4 *accel.* *♩=60*

lies be-tween me and my book;— And the South— Wind,—

ad lib. (as before) *(as is)* *ad lib. (as before)* *ppp*

a tempo *mf* *sub. p* *f* *♩=60*

wash - ing through the room, Makes the can - dles qui-ver. My

a tempo *♩=60*

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21 *f*

o - ver - pow - er me ——— with your tense and ur - gent love? ———

mf

Red.

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23 $\text{♩} = 40$

$\text{♩} = 40$

f

13 13 13 13 13

Red.

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

24

pp

p

ppp

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

IV. THE GIVER OF STARS

$\text{♩} = c.80$ *p dolce, gently*

Gently, quietly sparkling Hold your soul

pp

Red.

rall. $\text{♩} = c.96$ *mp* *p* *Very softly, sweetly (almost a whisper)*

o - - - pen - - - for my wel - com - ing. Let the

mp *pp*

Red.

pp *mf*

quiet of your spir - it bathe me with its clear and rip-pled

sim.

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available for purchase.

26 *mp* *mf* 3

- your soul o - - - pen, — Hold your soul

cresc. *mp*

sim.

28 *f* 3

o - - - - - pen for my wel - - -

29 Relax tempo (♩=c.63-69) *mp* lighter 3

com - ing, Let the

Relax tempo (♩=c.63-69)

Red. *sim.* *mp*

30

flick - 3 er - ing flame 5 of your

p 3

light Ped. ad lib.

31 *poco rall.* -----

soul — play all a-bout me, — That *poco rall.* -----

Sva loco ppp

Rhapsodically, with passion

32 *mf accel.* ----- *f* -----

in - 3 to my limbs may come the keen - ness of fire, — the

mp *accel.* -----

Red. *Red.*

34 *ff* *f* *mf* *accel.* ----- *rall.* ----- *p* 60 *p*

life 3 3 and joy of tongues of flame, And,

mf *accel.* ----- *rall.* ----- 60 *pp*

light Ped. ad lib. *Red.* (grace note on the beat) *Red.*

36 *mf*

go - ing out from you, — tight - ly strung and in tune,

mf *light Ped.* (clear)

Sva

Slower $\text{♩} = c.54$ (very freely) $\text{♩} = 72-76$

39 *p* *f* *p* *mf*

I may rouse ⁵ the blear-eyed world, And pour in - to it the

$\text{♩} = 72-76$ Gently, quietly sparkling

ppp

pp

Ped. Ped.

42 *sub. p* *rall.* *p*

beau - - - ty which you have be - got - ten.

dolce *p*

light Ped.

44 $\text{♩} = c.76$

$\text{♩} = c.76$

ppp

V. AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

♩ = c.52

steadily, like breathing

p

Red.

Why—

4

do you not sleep, Be - lov - ed? Why do you not

3

7

mf *p* *f*

sleep? It is so cold that the stars stand

pp

10 *3* out of the sky— like gold - en nails not driv - en home. *p* The *p* again, steadily, like breathing

13 fire crack - les pleas - ant - ly, And I sit here list - 'ning, *Red.*

16 list - 'ning for your *3* reg - u - lar breath - ing from the room a - bove. *3*

19 *mp* What keeps you a - wake, Be - lov - ed?— *pp* *Red.*

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13 *mf*
sew - - - ing, — Hold - ing a book, *very lightly*

p *light Ped.* — — — — — *mf* 52

15 *p* Rest - ing for a mo - ment — on the sill of a win - dow. — Oh — *very legato*

pp *pp* *Red.* *mf* *f with passion*

17 *mf mp* *p pp* *mf* *f* *move ahead*

21 sight of your hands, But my heart holds the sound of your *move ahead*

Red.

25 *rall.* *take time*
p
voice, And the soft bright - ness -

rall. *take time*
pp
8vb
Red.

28 *p* *mp* *pp*
which is your soul.

Red.

FOR PERUSAL



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), Carnegie'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 Művészklub (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. 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 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. 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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