

# Birds of Passage



S1 S2 A1 A2

"Birds of Passage"  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Tara Traxler

Simple, folk-like ♩ = 70

Soprano II and Alto II, unis.

Soprano II and Alto II, unis. *p*

Black shad - ows fall

Piano

5

from the lin - dens tall, That lift a - loft their mas - sive

10

wall, A - gainst the south-ern sky;

R.H. *sim.*

L.H.

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14 SA Tutti, unis.  
*pp*

And from the realms \_\_\_\_\_ Of the shad-'wy

18

elms \_\_\_\_\_ A tide-like dark - ness o - ver - whelms The

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23

fields that 'round us lie. \_\_\_\_\_

27 *p*

S1 And a - bove in the light Of the star - lit night,

S2 *p* And a - bove in the light Of the star - lit night,

A1 *p* And a - bove in the light Of the star - lit night,

A2 *p* And a - bove in the light Of the star - lit night,

*legato*

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31 *pp*

S1 Swift birds of pas - sage wing their flight.

S2 *pp* Swift birds of pas - sage wing their flight.

A1 *pp* Swift birds of pas - sage wing their flight.

A2 *pp* Swift birds of pas - sage wing their flight.

*mf*

34

S1 *mf* I hear the beat

S2 *mp* hear the

A1 *mf* I hear the beat

A2 *mp* hear the

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38

S1 Of their pin-ions fleet As from the land of

S2 beat Of their pin - ions fleet, from the land of

A1 Of their pin-ions fleet As from the land of

A2 beat Of their pin - ions fleet, from the land of

42

S1  
snow and sleet They seek a southern lea.

S2  
snow and sleet They seek a southern lea.

A1  
snow and sleet They seek a southern lea.

A2  
snow and sleet They seek a southern lea.

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46

S1  
*mf* I hear the cry

S2  
*mf* I hear the cry

A1  
*mf* I hear the cry

A2  
*mf* I hear the cry

50

S1  
Of their voic-es high Fall - ing dream-i - ly, dream-i - ly,

S2  
Of their voic-es high Fall - ing dream-i - ly, dream-i - ly

A1  
Of their voic-es high Fall - ing fall - ing

A2  
Of voic-es high Fall - ing dream - i - ly

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54

S1  
dream - i - ly through the sky, But their *mp*

S2  
through the sky, But their *mp*

A1  
dream - i - ly through the sky, But their *mp*

A2  
through the sky, But their



**Poco meno mosso** *mp*

57

S1 forms I can-not see. O, say not

S2 forms I can-not see. O, say not

A1 forms I can-not see. O, say not

A2 forms I can-not see. O, say not

**Poco meno mosso**

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60

S1 so! Those sounds that flow In mur-murs of de-light\_ and

S2 so! Those sounds that flow In mur-murs of de-light\_ and

A1 so! Those sounds that flow In mur-murs of de-light\_ and

A2 so! Those sounds that flow In mur-murs of de-light\_ and

63 **molto rit.**

S1  
S2  
A1  
A2

woe Come not from wings of birds.

**molto rit.**

*mf*

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66 **Freely** *p*

S1  
S2  
A1  
A2

They are the throngs Of the po - et's songs, Mur - murs of

**Freely**



69

S1 *pp*  
pleas - ures, pains and wrongs, The sound of wing-ed

S2 *pp*  
pleas - ures, pains and wrongs, The sound of wing-ed

A1 *pp*  
pleas - ures, pains and wrongs, The sound of wing-ed

A2 *pp*  
pleas - ures, pains and wrongs, The sound of wing-ed

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73 *Tempo primo* ♩ = 70

S1  
words.

S2  
words.

A1  
words.

A2  
words.

*Tempo primo* ♩ = 70

*mp*

12

Singers should each pick their favorite phrase in any language and begin whispering it repeatedly, starting very quietly and gaining intensity.

75

Tutti

77

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*cresc. poco a poco*

79

Singers should now be speaking at conversational volume.

1378-12

81

Singers should now be speaking at full voice volume.

83

Singers should transition to singing "Ah," spoken words fading out, ad lib.

*cresc.*

S1

Ah Ah

© protection

A1

*cresc.*

Ah Ah

A2

*cresc.*

Ah Ah

87

S1  
Ah \_\_\_\_\_ This *f*

S2  
Ah \_\_\_\_\_ This *f*

A1  
Ah \_\_\_\_\_ This *f*

A2  
Ah \_\_\_\_\_ This *f*

90

S1  
is the cry of souls, that high On toil - ing beat - ing pin - ions

S2  
is the cry of souls, that high On toil - ing beat - ing pin - ions

A1  
is the cry of souls, that high On toil - ing beat - ing pin - ions

A2  
is the cry of souls, that high On toil - ing beat - ing pin - ions

94  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  **Tempo primo**  $\text{♩} = 70$

S1 fly \_\_\_\_\_ Seek - ing a warm - er clime.

S2 fly \_\_\_\_\_ Seek - ing a warm - er clime.

A1 fly \_\_\_\_\_ Seek - ing a warm - er clime.

A2 fly \_\_\_\_\_ Seek - ing a warm - er clime.

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97 **Tutti, unis.**  
*mp*

From their dis - tant flight \_\_\_\_\_ Through realms of

100

light \_\_\_\_\_ It falls in - to our world of night,



105

With the mur-m'ring sound of rhyme.

Singers should whisper their phrase again  
and gradually fade out.

110

rit.

rit.

114

rit.