


DROP A PEBBLE IN THE WATER, Perez
SBMP 1823

SATB
piano, fiddle, percussion

Drop a Pebble in the Water



Text by
James W. Foley

Music by
Whittney Perez



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

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About the composer

Whittney Perez (b. 1986), has always had a passion for choral music. Her compositions have been described as having “great sensitivity to the text” and “a lovely sound and texture”. She graduated from Northwest Missouri State University, with a Bachelor’s degree in Vocal Music Education and a Master’s degree (M. Ed) as a graduate assistant. Whittney has always been interested in composition, but decided to pursue it seriously in 2022, after the pandemic left her contemplating the brevity of life. Since then, her compositions have been named finalists in competitions, including the Rocky Mountain Chamber Choir Call for Compositions, and Wright State University’s Silver Melted Into Sound Competition. She currently resides in Dayton, Ohio, raising her two daughters, teaching, composing, and singing with various choral ensembles in the Dayton area.

Dropping Pebbles in the Stream

Drop a pebble in the water — jes’ a splash an’ it is gone,
But th’s half a hundred ripples circlin’ on, an’ on, an’ on,
Spreadin’, spreadin’ from the center, flowin’ on out to the sea,
An’ th’ ain’t no way o’ tellin’ where th’ end is goin’ to be.
Drop a pebble in the water — in a minute ye forget,
But th’s little waves a-flowin’ an’ th’s ripples circlin’ yet;
All th’ ripples flowin’, flowin’, to a mighty wave hey grown,
An’ ye’ve disturbed a mighty river — jes’ by droppin’ in a stone.
Drop an unkind word or careless — in a minute it is gone,
But th’s half a hundred ripples circlin’ on, an’ on, an’ on.
Th’ keep spreadin’, spreadin’, spreadin’ from th’ center as th’ go,
An’ th’ ain’t no way to stop ‘em, once ye’ve started ‘em to flow.
Drop an unkind word or careless — in a minute ye forget,
But th’s little waves a-flowin’ an’ th’s ripples circlin’ yet;
An’ perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears ye’ve stirred,
An’ disturbed a life ‘et’s happy when ye dropped an unkind word.
Drop a word o’ cheer an’ kindness — jes’ a flash an’ it is gone,
But th’s half a hundred ripples circlin’ on, an’ on, an’ on,
Bearin’ hope an’ joy an’ comfort on each splashin’, dashin’ wave,
Till ye wouldn’t b’lieve the volume o’ th’ one kind word ye gave.
Drop a word o’ cheer an’ kindness — in a minute ye forget,
But th’s gladness still a-swellin’ an’ th’s joy a-circlin’ yet;
An’ ye’ve rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles an’ miles o’ water — jes’ by droppin’ a kind word.

James W. Foley (1874-1939),
from *The Verses of James W. Foley*,
Book of Plains and Prairie, Vol. 2 (1911)

Ranges

S A T B



Instrument parts, recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

Drop a Pebble in the Water

James W. Foley (1874-1939)

Whitney Perez

Driving and resolute $\text{♩} = 115$ (Ornamentations optional)

Fiddle (Violin)

Piano

L.H.

f

+Shak. +H. Dr.

(*Reo.*)

A

S

A

mf

Drop a peb - ble in the wa - ter

mf

Drop a peb - ble in the wa - ter

-Perc. +Perc.

mp

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12

S just a splash and it is gone_ but there's

A just a splash and it is gone_ but there's

T *mf* just a splash and it is gone_ but there's

B *mf* but there's

-Perc. *f* +Perc. *mp*

mp *And.*

16

half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on_

half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on_

half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling on and on,

half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling on and on,

simile (Pedal with chord changes unless otherwise written)

19

spread - ing from the cen - ter, flow - ing
 spread - ing from the cen - ter, flow - ing
 on and on and spread - ing from the cen - ter, flow - ing
 on and on and spread - ing from the cen - ter flow - ing

f

22

on out to the sea and there's no way of
 on out to the sea and there's no way of
 on out to the sea and there's no way of
 on out to the sea and there's no way of

mf *p*

25

know - ing where the end, where the end is go - ing to

know - ing where the end, where the end is go - ing to

know - ing where the end, where the end is go - ing to

know - ing where the end, where the end is go - ing to

28

be.

be.

be.

be.

B

32

mf Drop an un - kind

mf Drop an un - kind

mf Drop an un - kind

mf Drop an un - kind

mp

mp

35

word in a mi - nute it is gone

word in a mi - nute it is gone

word in a mi - nute it is gone

word

mp

f

f

mp

39 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

but there's half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling

but there's half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling

but there's half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling

but there's half a hun - dred rip - ples cir - cling

+Shak. *mp* *p*

42 *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

on and on and on They keep spread - ing and

on and on on They keep spread - ing, spread - ing and

on and on, on and on and on spread - ing and

on and on, on and on and on, spread - ing

mf *f*

PREVIEW

45

spread - ing from the cen - ter as they go _____ and there's

spread - ing, from the cen - ter as they go _____

they keep spread - ing from the cen - ter as they go _____

they keep spread - ing from the cen - ter as they go _____

48

no way to stop them from spread - ing once you've

There's no way stop them, stop them from spread - ing once you've

There's no way to stop them, stop them from spread - ing once you've

no way to stop them from spread - ing once you've

PREVIEW

51

start - ed them to flow

start - ed them to flow

start - ed them to flow

start - ed them to flow

f

f

54

PREVIEW

D

mp

and per - haps in some sad

mp

and per - haps in some sad

mp

and per - haps in some sad

per - haps in

-Shak.

mp

Leo.

57

heart, a might - y wave of tears_ you've stirred and dis -

heart, a might - y wave_ of tears_ you've stirred_ and dis -

heart, a might - y wave_ of_ tears_ you've_ stirred_ and dis -

mf

some sad_ heart wave of tears you've stirred and dis -

60

turbed a life_ w_ py be - fore you dropped that un - kind

turbed a life_ that was hap - py be - fore you dropped that un - kind

turbed a life_ be - fore you dropped that un - kind

turbed a life_ dropped that un - kind

E

63 word.

word.

word.

word.

mp *f*

66

69 *f* +Shak.

Red.

The musical score consists of four systems. The first system (measures 63-65) features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked with 'word.' and have a fermata over the first measure. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings of *mp* and *f*. The second system (measures 66-68) continues the vocal and piano parts, with triplets in the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 69-71) includes a vocal line with a fermata and a piano accompaniment with a 'Shak.' marking. The fourth system (measures 72) concludes the piece with a 'Red.' marking. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page.

73

mf

Drop a word of kind - ness just a flash and it is gone__

mf

Drop a word of kind - ness just a flash and it is gone__

mf

Drop a word of kind - ness just a flash and it is gone__

mf

just a flash and it is gone__

mf

f

76

but there's half a hun - dred

but there's half a hun - dred

but there's half a hun - dred

but there's half a hun - dred

mp

Red.

79

rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on Bear - ing

rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on Bear - ing

8 rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on Bear - ing

rip - ples cir - cling on and on and on Bear - ing

82

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85

heard o - ver miles_ and miles_ of wat - er just by drop - ping

heard o - ver miles_ and miles_ of wat - er just by drop - ping

heard o - ver miles_ and miles_ of wat - er just by drop - ping

heard o - ver miles_ and miles_ of wat - er just by drop - ping

mf

89

one kind word. Drop a peb - ble in the wat - er but there's

one kind word. Drop a peb - ble in the wat - er

one kind word. Drop a peb - ble Drop a peb - ble in the wat - er,

one kind word. Drop a peb - ble but there's

G *f*

f

f

rip - ples cir - cling on, on and on, on and

but there's rip - ples cir - cling on, on and on, on and

but there's rip - ples cir - cling on and on, on and on, on and

rip - ples cir - cling on, cir - cling on, on and on and on,

on, on and on, on and on!

on, on and on, on and on!

on, on and on, on and on!

on, on and on, on and on!

on, on and on, on and on!

f *ff* -Perc. *L.H.*

