

Butterfly

Notes from the Composer

Hilda Conkling (1910-1986) was a remarkable early 20th-century poet who created her entire body of work between the ages of four and twelve. Growing up in Northampton, Massachusetts, her creative environment was significantly shaped by her mother, Grace Hazard Conkling, a poet and English professor at Smith College. This poem later appeared in her debut collection, *Poems by a Little Girl* (1920), which featured a foreword by the esteemed American poet Amy Lowell.

Seeking musical inspiration from the Great American Songbook to create a partner song suitable for young voices, I found Hilda Conkling's charming poem to be a perfect fit. It's simple, short expression of beauty and joy in small things that I often fail to notice or see was striking to me. The virtuosic piano accompaniment underscores the melody's simplicity with a lush harmonic language. I sought to evoke the fluttering of butterfly wings at the piece's opening in the piano and to subtly weave this motif throughout the texture.

Rachel DeVore Fogarty

Rachel DeVore Fogarty (1980) is a composer and collaborative pianist. Her works have been commissioned, awarded and performed by organizations in the U.S. and internationally, including the Bryan Symphony, MAS Vocal, the Luna Nova Music Ensemble, Roane Choral Society, the Princeton Girlchoir, Oklahoma State University, University of Kentucky, St. Olaf College, the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, the Capital Hearings, Sparks & Wiry Cries and VocalEssence. Her string quartet, *sky darkening early*, was selected as part of a reading session with the Grammy-nominated JACK Quartet. Upcoming projects include two musicals (*Unbelievable* and *A Thousand Faces*), a chamber music commission, *On the rim of a thin place*, for Duo Atypique, an art song commission, *Liturgies* for the NATS Mentoring Program for Composers with Cincinnati Song Initiative, the premiere of *Haiku No. 13* for string trio at UT Knoxville's Contemporary Music Festival, and a new micro-opera, *Untangled Threads* for the SALT Quintet.