

MUSIC BY:

KEVIN WILT

LYRICS BY:

CAITLIN VINCENT

UNSUNG ODE

for Mezzo-Soprano and Alto Saxophone



WHISTLING
VINE MUSIC

UNSUNG ODE

for Mezzo-Soprano and Alto Saxophone

UNSUNG ODE is meant to honor the work and dedication of music teachers. Caitlin and I wanted to bring the listener into the routine of the studio music teacher, trudging through excuses, difficult parents, and the same scales and warm-ups year after year. We also wanted the audience to understand the pains and triumphs that teachers share with their students, and how deeply music teachers are invested.

The piece is structured in three episodes, each a recreation of a different music lesson between teacher (vocalist) and student (alto saxophone). After a pompous introduction, the vocalist-as-music teacher sighs, and begins to recount the routine of scales and hand positions, followed by a sample lesson of the student comically disappointing her. The last element of each episode is the teacher reflecting on whether she has done enough to nurture the student's creative spark. The piece ends with the largest reflection yet, with the teacher seeing the student move on to the next phase of their life, hoping they made a difference in their student's love of music.

K E V I N W I L T

The approximate duration of this work is 6:00.

For more information about this piece or any others written by Kevin Wilt, please visit:

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UNSUNG ODE

CAITLIN VINCENT

KEVIN WILT

With too much bravado ♩ = 104

clear throat pompously

Mezzo-soprano *f*

Teach-ing is an art. Ev-'ry teach-er a kind of

Alto Saxophone *fp*

5 art-ist. See-ing and free-ing what might be-come. Some-times the can-vas is blank.

9 Some-times half-fin - ished. Some-times skewed and warped_ from be-fore.

even more puffed up **13** *spoken:*

It's a chal-lenge of tal-ent and guess-work. Vi-sion and time.

Alto Saxophone *fp*

freely

Shap-ing a kind of mas-ter-piece that will nev - er be signed.

15 *fp*

18

Declamatory and in time

This is an ode to the ped-a-gogue. An ode... To the teach-er, men-tor,

mf

friend. Ther-a-pist. Re-hear-sal pi-an-ist.

24 Strict

En-cour-ag-er. Dis-cour-ag-er. Prompt-er and push-er. This is an ode to

28

Reality sets in ♩ = 76

you. (sigh) Ode to your hours in a stuff-y room With a

p cantabile

week-ly pa-rade of chil-dren. Lead-ing an end-less quest for mid-dle C. As teacher, spoken: Ok, let's find middle C.

f

36

encourage ad lib. with *good; almost; once more; etc.*

spoken:
Okay, and now?

As student: struggle to find middle (concert) C ad lib. (found it)

f

36

38

sing along with "student"
encouraged

spoken

pained *rit.*

"Baa baa black sheep have you a-ny wool?" Good(?) Yes sir, yes sir three bags"...

add "mistakes" ad lib.

splat

f *pp*

38

43

Genuinely $\text{♩} = 66$
p

Ode to the hours... When par-ents see a lit-tle Mo-zart.

p *pp* in the background

espress.

43

But you're on-ly look-ing for a spark.

mf *espress.*

47

53

A little faster $\text{♩} = 76$

Ode to the days with ad-o-les-cent stu-dents. Com-pet-ing with hor-mones,

p *cantabile*

52

phones, and angst. And a four oc-tave range of ex - cus - es.

57

60

As teacher: react to excuses ad lib.

As student: Hanon #1, badly
(ad lib mistakes)

f

spoken:
I did practice.
Just not this piece...

spoken:
I thought you were
talking to a different student...

spoken:
I left my music
with my grandma...
who died...

60

67

Slower ♩ = 66

Ode to the days... Try-ing to break through the
ord.

fp *pp in the background*

66

noise. To plant a seed of art-ist-ry.

mf espress.

70

77

Ode to the days with ma-jors and mi-nors.

f *mf*

74

One eye on the fi-nal re - cit-al. And the oth-er on what might hap-pen next.

79

84

maintain tension surprised getting verklempt

maintain tension "Bolero," as beautifully as possible

$\text{♩} = 72$

83 spoken: For my audition, *mf*
I will be playing the theme
from Maurice Ravel's *Bolero*.

90

proud... Reflective $\text{♩} = 66$

Ode to the weeks...

88

Won-der-ing_ if you've done e-nough. Will they find their way? Will the stay in touch?

pp *mf*

92

100

Ode to the days. Months. Years. Stand-ing_ in the wings.

pp *mf* *mp*

96

