



# Gossamer Wings (2013)

Flute, clarinet, toy piano, percussion, violin & cello

**Erik Griswold**

## **Notes for Gossamer Wings**

The title of “Gossamer Wings” alludes to the classic Cole Porter song “Just one of those things” (which has the line “a trip to the moon on gossamer wings”). I have always loved that phrase and the image that it conjures up, and it became the starting point for my exploration of musical moods and textures. The three movements – “Spinning,” “Suspended,” and “Moon Dancing” - travel through many sound worlds, and touch briefly on a number of half-remembered styles...in various sections you might hear influences from Debussy, Stravinsky, maybe even Cole Porter himself! “Gossamer Wings” is the second composition I’ve created for Margaret Leng Tan (after the solo “Old McDonald’s Yellow Submarine”), and is deeply inspired by the wonderful sound universe she has carved out. It was composed with generous support from the Australia Council for the Arts.

## **Instrumentation**

Gossamer Wings calls for flute, b-flat clarinet, toy piano, percussion, violin and cell.

The toy piano needs a 3-octave range (F3-F6).

The percussion instruments required are as follows:

Part 1 & 2 – Xylphones

Part 3 – Toy drum kit (cymbal, snare, & kick drum)

# Gossamer Wings

## 1. Spinning

Energetic ♩ = 120

The first system of the score includes parts for Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Xylophone, Toy Piano, Violin, and Cello. The Flute, Violin, and Cello parts begin with a *mf* dynamic. The Clarinet and Xylophone parts also feature *mf* dynamics. The Toy Piano part is silent. The music is in 6/4 time and features a key signature of three flats.

The second system of the score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in Bb (Bb Cl.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Violin (Vln.), and Cello (Vc.). The Flute and Violin parts begin with a *mf* dynamic. The Clarinet and Cello parts also feature *mf* dynamics. The Xylophone part is silent. The music is in 6/4 time and features a key signature of three flats.

9

Fl.  
B♭ Cl.  
Xyl.  
Vln.  
Vc. arco

15

A

Fl.  
B♭ Cl.  
Xyl.  
T Pno. f  
Vln.  
Vc. p f

20

Fl. *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *mf*

T Pno.

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

23

**B** **Misterioso**

Fl. *p*

B $\flat$  Cl. *p*

Xyl. *p*

T Pno. *p*

Vln. *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *p*

26

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Xyl.

T Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 26, 27, and 28. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Flute part (Fl.) begins in measure 26 with a series of eighth-note patterns. The Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vc.) parts also have specific rhythmic patterns. The Piano (T Pno.) part is silent in measures 26 and 27 but enters in measure 28 with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a complex, multi-voice texture of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Violin part has a simple eighth-note pattern, and the Violoncello part has a simple quarter-note pattern.

29

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Xyl.

T Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 29, 30, and 31. The key signature remains three sharps. The Flute part (Fl.) has a more complex eighth-note pattern. The Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue with their respective rhythmic patterns. The Piano (T Pno.) part continues its complex texture from the previous system, maintaining the piano (*p*) dynamic.