

A Time to Blossom sets the poetry of Hildegard of Bingen, Emily Dickinson and Hannah Senesh. These women of divergent times and traditions share an appreciation of the divine unity at all levels of being. Imagery of the natural world is their vehicle for spiritual expression. For Hildegard, the 12th century abbess, the “verdant sprout” is the inner awakening which “bud[s] forth” in each of us. Emily Dickinson’s “little brook” represents the life source which sustains us all. Hannah Senesh, the Israeli pioneer and martyr, evokes images of the grand forces of nature which have meaning because of the “prayer of the heart.” These three poems express the inter-connectedness and holiness of all of life.

The work was commissioned by the Humanities Department of the University of South Carolina, at the request of soprano Laury Christie, who suggested texts from Hildegard and Dickinson. “Caesaria” had been composed earlier, in 1984, for “A Concert for Peace,” which Warshauer organized with the Carolina Peace Resource Center to support nuclear disarmament. The complete song cycle was first performed by Christie, with Robert Jesselson, cello; Constance Lane, flute; and Warshauer, piano, for Women’s History Month at the University of South Carolina in 1990. That ensemble may be heard on the CD *Spirals of Light*, Kol Meira, 1999.

The poetry of “A Song to Mary” is reprinted from *Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen*, by Gabriele Uhlein, © 1983, Bear & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2860, Santa Fe, NM 87504. The poetry of “Have you Got a Brook” by Emily Dickinson is reprinted with permission of Little, Brown and Company. The poetry of “Caesaria” is reprinted with the permission of the Estate of Hannah Senesh.

Performance notes:

< > indicates subtle shifts within one dynamic level, unless otherwise marked.

Hebrew pronunciation key (for “Caesaria”):

vowels as in Italian

ch as in Bach

This edition contains two versions of “Caesaria” to accommodate both high and medium ranges. There is also a version of “Caesaria” for voice and piano (both keys). Please contact the publisher for ordering information.

About the Composer:

Meira Warshauer’s music, performed internationally to critical acclaim, reflects her personal spiritual journey and communicates directly to the heart and soul of the listener. She has received awards from ASCAP, Meet the Composer, the American Music Center, International Alliance for Women in Music, and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and Artist Fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, The Hambidge Center, and the S.C. Arts Commission. She is a Visiting Lecturer at Columbia College, Columbia, SC, where she teaches “The Healing Art of Music.”

Warshauer has devoted much of her creative output to Jewish themes and their universal message. In 2006, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Chorus performed *Ahavah (Love)* and *Shacharit (Sabbath Morning Service)* in a concert broadcast on Slovak National Radio and webcast internationally. *Streams in the Desert*, an all Warshauer CD inspired by the Torah and recorded in Slovakia, was released by Albany Records in fall, 2007. Her work also reflects a love and respect for the earth. A profile of her *Symphony No. 1: Living, Breathing Earth* was featured on the nationally broadcast PRI radio show “Living on Earth” in Spring, 2007.

Commissions have come from Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, South Carolina Philharmonic, Western Piedmont Symphony, Paula Robison, Richard Nunemaker, Daniel Heifetz, and the Zamir Chorale of Boston, among others. Her music has been recorded for the Albany, MMC, Kol Meira and Arizona University labels.

A graduate of Harvard, New England Conservatory of Music, and the University of South Carolina, Warshauer studied composition with Mario Davidovsky, Jacob Druckman, William Thomas McKinley, and Gordon Goodwin.

For more information about Meira Warshauer, please visit her website: meirawarshauer.com.