

PROGRAM NOTES

うぐいす

Uguisu is commonly translated as "nightingale," but its actual English name is "Japanese bush warbler." This small bird is often heard, and sometimes seen, in bamboo thickets surrounding Buddhist temples. Its song is described as "Hō, hokeyo, kekyo, kekyo," which sounds like saying *Hokekyō* (Lotus sutra), a Buddhist prayer. In traditional Japanese music, the *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) often imitates the call of the *uguisu*. This song is a marvelous rendition imitating a *shakuhachi* imitating an *uguisu*.

君を見ぬ日のうぐいす

A nightingale on the day I'm not seeing you

海近き宿のうぐいす

A nightingale by an inn near the sea

波の音にまじりなくよ うぐいす

A nightingale sings
blending with the sound of the waves

ひねもす聴くよ うぐいす

All day long I listen to you, nightingale

うぐいす うぐいす うぐいす

Nightingale, nightingale, nightingale

Kumiko Shimuzu and Mutsumi Moteki

The History Of

The History Of... is a setting of a poem by the same name, for high soprano and piano. The original poem was written by the composer in the spring of 2021, after being commissioned by Michelle Eisenberg. In the piece, an outcast visits a church at night for some quiet solitude and meditation, and comes across a mysterious book on the altar: The History of Everything. Each chapter of this book elaborates on a particular strand of history, starting from the creation of time itself and spanning across the development of modern human civilization. The poem concludes with the omniscient narrator zooming back into the outcast's disposition, implying that life is in itself a notable strand of history. Using a musical language that oscillates between mystical, uncanny, dark, and bright, the piece aims to embody the expressive force of the original poem.

This work is dedicated to soprano Emily Hamilton, for whom the piece was composed.

Lily Koslow

This document was prepared by Emily Hamilton