

Program Note

Willows, written for and performed here by the amazing pianist, Madeline Slettedahl, is a programmatic work with etude-like qualities exploring levels of delicacy. The image of a beautiful Willow tree inspired the following idea: A well-intentioned and innocent human being admires the simple beauty of a grand “weeping” willow tree growing by a slow moving river. The willow responds to the human’s admiration by transporting the innocent one into the world of the plant kingdom. Far from being just a “pretty object”, the human is shown the complex and interrelated web of life that connects all plants to all living things, and that all “things” are, in fact, alive. Afterwards the human continues forward with a much greater appreciation and understanding of our smallness and our deep connection to time and the entire universe.

Roger Briggs