

RETURNING

I have learned this:
if you stay in one place long enough
they will return to you.

REFRAIN*

*They will return to you,
they will return to you,
they will return.*

The geese you saw leaving,
their feet rising into dark bodies.
They will return.

[REFRAIN]

All you need to do is watch the sun each day
as it tumbles through the sky
and they will come again.

[REFRAIN]

They will return, floating toward you,
their damp bodies
still trembling from flight.

Laura Foley

*The refrain is to be sung twice:
first by the chorus, with harmony, then joined in by the audience (see melody below).
(The refrain is not part of Laura Foley's original poem.)

REFRAIN:

Audience

They will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you, they will re - turn.



Laura Foley's poem *Returning* describes the return of wild geese each year. Just as the birds of the poem return again, several elements within the piece return: the chorus, joined by the audience, sings a simple recurring refrain. The melody of the refrain concludes on an A, the starting note of the piece, and as the birds return home at the end of the piece, the final note of *Returning* comes to rest on the same A as well.

*For Magpies & Ravens' "Lineage" program
in honor of all the composers who have influenced our lives*

Returning

for SATB chorus a cappella
(with optional audience refrain)

Text by
Laura Foley

Music by
Dale Trumbore

Tenderly; \downarrow = ca. 80 or slightly slower

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is labeled "Audience (optional)". The second staff is labeled "SOPRANO". The third staff is labeled "ALTO". The fourth staff is labeled "TENOR". The bottom staff is labeled "BASS". The piano part is located at the bottom, with a brace grouping it with the bass staff. The vocal parts sing in unison. The piano part provides harmonic support. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The vocal parts enter at measure 8. The piano part begins at measure 1. The vocal parts sing "I have learned this: if you" followed by a repeat sign and "I have learned this: if you". The piano part continues with a bass line. The vocal parts sing "I have learned this: if you". The piano part ends with a final chord.

Returning

2

S. *p* if you stay in one place long e - nough

A. *p* if you stay.

T. *mp* stay, *pp* If you

B. *mp* stay, *pp* If you

Pno.

S. *p* if you stay,

A. *pp* if you stay,

T. stay, *p* if you

B. stay, *p* if you

Pno.

I am a page.

I am blank,
but I don't have to be.

If you buy the score,
you'll see what I look like with music on me!

In the meantime, though,
here's the next page:

Returning

4

23

S. they will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you,

A. they will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you, they will re -

T. re - turn, re - turn, re -

B. re - turn, re - turn, re -

Pno.

28

Aud. *) They will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you, *mf*

p S. re - turn. They will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you, *mf*

p A. turn. They will re - turn to you, they will re - turn to you, *mf*

p T. turn. They will re - turn, re - turn, *mf*

p B. turn. They will re - turn, re - turn, *mf*

Pno.

*The conductor should cue the audience at each of their three entrances.

Returning

5

33

Aud. *they will re - turn.*

S. *re - turn, _____* **rit.** *re - turn.*

A. *they will re - turn, re - turn,* **rit.** *re - turn.*

T. *re - turn,* **rit.** *re - turn.*

B. *they will re - turn,* **rit.** *re - turn.*

Pno.

38 **Tempo I** **p**

S. *The geese you saw leav-ing, their feet ri - sing in - to dark*

A. *The geese you saw leav-ing, their feet ri - sing*

T. *The geese you saw leav-ing, their feet ri - sing in - to dark*

B. *The geese you saw leav-ing, their feet ri - sing*

38 **Tempo I**

Pno.

Returning

6

43

rit. A tempo

S. *bo - dies, dark bo - dies. re - turn.*

A. *dark bo - dies. They will re - turn.*

T. *bo - dies, dark bo - dies. They will re - turn. They will re -*

B. *dark bo - dies. They will re - turn. They will re -*

Pno.

43

rit. A tempo

49

rit. poco Tempo I

S. *re - turn, re - turn.*

A. *re - turn, re - turn, they will re - turn, re -*

T. *turn re - turn, they will re - turn.*

B. *turn to you, they will re - turn to you, re - turn.*

Pno.

49

rit. Tempo I

I am a page.

I am blank,
but I don't have to be.

If you buy the score,
you'll see what I look like with music on me!

In the meantime, though,
here's the next page:

Returning

8

A little faster

S. 63 **pp** All you need to do is watch the sun each day as it tumbles through the sky

A. **pp** All you need to do is watch the sun each day as it tumbles through the

T. 8 watch the sun each day as it tumbles through the sky

B. as it

A little faster

Pno.

rit. **Slower** **accel.**

S. 68 the sky, the sky and they will come again,

A. sky the sky the sky they will come a -

T. 8 tum-bles through the sky, they will come a -

B. tum-bles through the sky, a -

rit. **Slower** **accel.**

Pno.

72 rit. *pp* < **Tempo I**

S. a - gain. re - turn to you, They will re -

A. gain, a - gain. They will re - turn to you, They will re -

T. gain, a - gain. re - turn, re -

B. gain, a - gain. They will re - turn, re -

Pno.

77

Aud.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

They will re - turn to you,
turn to you, They will re - turn, float - ing toward you, re - turn, re -
turn to you, They will re - turn, float - ing toward you, re - turn, re -
turn, re - turn to you,
turn, re - turn, re - turn, re - turn. They will re - turn to you,

77

Returning

10

Aud.

They will re - turn to you, They will re - turn,

S.

turn, _____ re - turn, float - ing

A.

turn, _____ re - turn, They will re - turn, float - ing

T.

They will re - turn to you, They will re - turn,

B.

They will re - turn to you, re - turn,

Pno.

poco rit.

82

S.

toward you, their dark bo - dies still trem - bling, from

A.

toward you, their dark bo - dies still trem - bling, from

T.

their dark bo - dies still trem - bling,

B.

their dark bo - dies still trem - bling,

Pno.

Slow; $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

86

S.

toward you, their dark bo - dies still trem - bling, from

A.

toward you, their dark bo - dies still trem - bling, from

T.

their dark bo - dies still trem - bling,

B.

their dark bo - dies still trem - bling,

Pno.

Slow; $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

Returning

11

90

S. flight, from flight, rit.

A. flight, from flight,

T. if you stay, if you stay,

B. if you stay, rit.

Pno.

95 Slowly *p*

S. from flight.

A. from flight.

T. they will re - turn. *pp*

B. re - turn. *pp*

95 Slowly

Pno.