



DA Print Edition
#20823

MAVES

The Four Short Seasons of Love

Voice & Piano

text
Kay Maves

The Four Short Seasons of Love (2002)

The original material for these songs was used in a work for Brass Quintet and Soprano for my good friend Peter Kundsvig about 1978 (premiered by his brass quintet the following year) when I had first come to the College of Charleston. Done a couple of times by students in the interim, I just this past year reworked these songs into their present form. The text was written by my (then) wife Kay.

The songs were composed with the local area (Charleston, South Carolina) in mind. For example: the Ginkgo Tree in song II across the street fills my living room window yet, and the leaves still turn to gold months ahead of any of the other local trees.



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THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION WHICH RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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I

Lovely
Like the
leaves beside your hair,
Like the grasses in the marsh you love,
Your face, as natural and serene,
emerges from the landscape,
Delights my afternoon.

II

The gingko tree outside
is touched with gold.
All the light
of winter afternoons
is gathered in this place
And in your face
I know regret
and wondering.

III

Spring comes,
as it must
I would wish it otherwise
I would wish the darkness to remain
and spread
across the light.
Nothing grows within
Without the earth is catching life in both her hands
Oh Spring,
Unfair to winter
in my life.

IV

Yet
if I close my eyes,
throw back the light,
If I spin on pages
fragile as the images I bear,
I bear this long winter
This long winter with its freight
of memory
and of barren night,
This long winter brings an end
and a beginning.