

# Medicine Wheel

for 2 women's voices and Native American Flute

Poems by Emily Bobo

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## I. Wolf: The Teacher

♩ = 66 very free, cadenza-like until measure 13.

(huffing and puffing...)

Native American Flute  
in G minor (concert pitch)

8

*in tempo* (♩ = 66)

I watch you,  
I watch you,

16

build a house, then of plas-tic blocks,  
three and pink in your foot-ie pa-ja-mas, first of foam

23

and whim-sy holds it to-geth-er: holds it to-geth-er:  
and whim-sy holds it to-geth-er:

29

pur - ple cir - cle on top of green tri - an - gle.  
 pur - ple cir - cle on top of green tri - an - gle. whim -

36

whim - sy holds it to - geth - er.  
 - sy holds it to - geth - er.

41

And my  
 And my

47

wolf heart huffs and puffs and  
 wolf heart huffs and puffs and

51

blows your house down, learn to  
blows your house down, know-ing you must learn to live

57

live in-side a world of brick and stone: red square  
to live in-side a world of brick and stone: red square

63

on top of red square on top of gray. And fear holds it to -  
on top of red square on top of gray.

70

geth-er. fear holds it to - geth - er.  
fear holds it to - geth-er. to - geth - er.

## II. Buffalo (Contrary): Closed Fist

♩ = 66

Native American Flute  
in F# minor (transposed)

*mf*

Hand Drum with jingles (or tambourine played as a hand drum, with fingers)  
Played by one of the singers.

*mf*

5

*mf*

closed fist can-not hold a child's hand or un-wrap a choco-late kiss.

*p* *mf*

closed fist can-not hold a child's hand or un-wrap a choco-late kiss.

9

*mf* *mp*

14

*mf*

In gray Oc-to-ber, white Buffa-lo walked with me in a fur

In gray Oc-to-ber, white Buf-fa-lo walked with me in a fur

17

suit. She car-ried a pump-kin full of prayer  
suit. and hum-bly went from door to

20

door, from choco-late kiss to kiss—  
door, from choco-late kiss to kiss—

23

a-bun-dance— un-til my fists spilled  
a-bun-dance— un-til my fists spilled

27

o-pen to hold her heart.  
o-pen to hold her heart.

### III. Swan: Grace

Native American Flute  
in F# minor (transposed)

$\text{♩} = 56$  *tuh*

*p* mysterious

Shaker (drum with metal beads inside or jingles) *p* *p* (background)

lost wood, lost lost wood, in-to a

Shaker (gourd with seeds) *p* *mp* (foreground)

In a lost wood, I looked in-to a pool

*p*

*p* (background)

pool but could not see my self. see my self. fell a-sleep. fell a -

but could not see my self. Then I fell a-sleep

*n.v.* *vibrato*

*mf* *mf* *f*

*p* *mp*

sleep Dream Dream Dream Dream tast - ed

and fell in Dream and tast - ed teeth,

*p* *p* *mp* (foreground)

teeth, dust dust Then

*mf* *p* *mp* *p* (background)

great tum-bling mo-lars, crum-bling to dust on my tongue. Swan

22

Swan dipped her beak and dripped teeth in the pool,

Swan Swam dipped her beak dripped and

25

Dream to words and words words.

Dream turned these to words and words and words.

30

Then Swan drew them in like feathers on a wing storied me

Then Swan drew them in like feathers on a wing and sto-ried me

35

in the wa-ter. wa-ter.

in the wa-ter. wa-ter.

## IV. Whale: The Record Keeper

$\text{♩} = 80$

Native American Flute  
in G minor (concert pitch)

*mf* (waves of a great ocean)

(ocean winds) *p* o - wa - u o - wa - u - wa - u - wa -

*p* o - wa - u o - wa - u - wa - u - wa -

6

*p* *mf* *mf*

*mf* Sand and cold and the

*mf* Sand and cold and the

11

glint of the At-lan - tic— green — not blue— black rocks and sea- weed, sharp un-der-

glint of the At-lan - tic— green — not blue— black rocks and sea- weed, sharp un-der-

15

foot. Sand — and cold — and the

foot. Sand — and cold — and the

19

glint of the At-lan - tic— green — not blue— black rocks and sea- weed, sharp un-der-

glint of the At-lan - tic— green — not blue— black rocks and sea- weed, sharp un-der-



23

foot. The ev-er-mov-ing sea ris - es, falls, —

foot. The ev-er-mov-ing sea ris - es, falls, —

28

rolls, — sings for - ward, draws — back — and whale re-cords her

rolls, — sings for - ward, draws — back — and whale re-cords her

33

sto - ry, her ev-er-chang-ing rock and sand.

sto - ry, her ev-er-chang-ing rock and sand.

38

(Flute)

*pp* *mf*

44

And the sea, ev-er re - turn - ing, ev-er re - turn - ing, ev-er re -

And the sea, ev-er re - turn - ing, ev-er re - turn - ing, ev-er re -

48

turn - ing, ex - tends her - self — a - gain — and a - gain,

turn - ing, ex - tends her - self — a - gain — and a - gain,

52

bring-ing song song bring - ing song in sand and weed,  
bring-ing song song song song in sand and weed,

57

salt and bone, back to this al - tar  
salt and bone, back to this al - tar

63

this al - tar of bram-ble  
this al - tar of bram - ble

70

and stone.  
and stone.

78

*p* o-wa-u - wa - u - wa - o  
*p* o-wa-u - wa - u - wa - o

## V. Mouse: The Detailer

♩ = 88, scurrying

Native American Flute  
in G minor (concert pitch)

*f* *mp light* *f* *p*

4 *mf* *f* *p*

bee-tles in the ros - es bee-tles in the ros - es bee-tles in the ros - es and  
bee-tles in the ros - es bee-tles in the ros - es

7  
i - vy on the brick i - vy on the brick  
and i - vy on the brick i - vy on the brick

10 *light*

lit-ter-ing the stoop lit-ter-ing the stoop  
last fall's leaves lit-ter-ing the stoop lit-ter-ing the stoop

13 *f* *mf*

lip prints ring-ing "Os" on the win - dow "Os"  
lip prints ring-ing "Os"

16

on the win-dow mold grow-ing grout in the show-er  
mold grow-ing grout in the show-er

19

mouse mouse creeps down mouse creeps down from my eye  
mouse mouse creeps down mouse creeps down from my eye

22

nib-ling nib-ling lines nib-ling lines nib-ling nib-ling  
nib-ling nib-ling lines nib-ling nib-ling lines

25

lines de-tail-ing moth-er moth-er in the mir-ror  
de-tail-ing moth-er moth-er in the mir-ror

29

stretch marks ra-di-ate from the in-sides of knees

33

in - sides of trees my hips this pub - lic re - cord of a daugh - ter's out - grow - ing

ring - ing like the in - sides of trees my bel - ly this pub - lic re - cord of a daugh - ter's out - grow - ing

37

my eyes her eyes moth - er's eyes mir - rors mir - rors

moth - er's eyes my eyes her eyes mir - rors mir - rors

42

mir - rors mouse mouse mouse stamp - ing hap - pi - ness

mir - rors mouse mouse mouse stamp - ing hap - pi - ness

45

like age all o - ver this house this this

like age all o - ver this house this this

48

time this bod - y

time this bod - y