

MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

WINDFALL

FOR CLARINET, PIANO, AND TAPE

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Duration: ca. 7:00

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SAMPLE SCORE / NOT A PURCHASED SCORE / FOR PERUSAL ONLY

COMMISSIONED BY

Paula Corley, clarinet

PROGRAM NOTE

On December 10, 2022, I sat in the kitchen at my aunt's house in Attleboro, Massachusetts. It was my grandmother's 98th birthday and I had driven in to help her celebrate. Although her eyesight had long been diminishing, her sense of taste remained rapturous and we devoured the chocolate cake I brought from Brooklyn. As we sipped our coffee that morning, she began to share some memories, nuggets of wisdom, her keys to a happy life. This was not the first time she had felt the need to commune with me—or to try to set me straight—but for some reason, this time felt different. I sat my phone on the counter and started recording. This was our last conversation together.

A few weeks later, as I was struggling to find a doorway into a new piece for clarinetist Paula Corley, I listened back to my grandmother's conversation. Certain words and phrases began to pop out, to stick with me. I'd rewind and listen again. And again. The same words, simple ideas, "be kind" and "love people" started to haunt me, to follow me. The cadence she spoke with, the rhythm of these words—I couldn't escape them. They began to replay in my head for the next few weeks, a mantra my subconscious was insistent upon embedding in my brain. Finally, it became clear that I could no longer ignore the obvious. This was my way into Paula's piece—indeed, my *only* way in. I had no choice but to take these words and somehow translate them into music.

Windfall (noun): an apple or other fruit blown down from a tree or bush by the wind.

When I think about this word, *Windfall*, I think about how my grandmother's words and her kindness have fallen down to me, and how she lived her life so generously, continually inspiring happiness and laughter in those around her. Even back in 1940, when she was only 15 or 16 years old, the New York Times wrote of her "cheerful personality" and "good sportsmanship." I wonder how many other people have sat under her tree over the years and also felt that same mighty wind shower them with "be kind, love people."

The more I think about it, the more I realize that there are many other people like my grandmother who have moved mountains and shaped the course of my life with the *simplest* words, the *smallest* gestures. Those people have often been my teachers—specifically, my music teachers—who through their kindness and love have inspired a life-long addiction. The fruits of music have rained down over the years, and it is because of people like them—and people like Paula—that generations of young people have and will continue to feel these generous winds on their backs.

Windfall premiered on July 19, 2023, recorded privately at Texas State University with Paula Corley on clarinet, Joey Martin on piano, and Nettie Markowski narrating posthumously.



WINNER OF PERSONAL QUALITIES MEDAL AND HER GUESTS

Fifteen-year-old Nettie Jordan with Veronica and Virginia McTighe after she had received the MJWA gold medal yesterday at the Avenue B Center of the Children's Aid Society

Times Wide World

GIRL, 15, WINS PRIZE FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

'Pals' Help Celebrate at Ave. B Center, but Jitterbugging Calls When Food Goes

Fifteen-year-old Nettie Jordan has been a member of the Girls Club at the Avenue B Center of the Children's Aid Society for eight years. Yesterday the cheerful personality and good sportsmanship that she has exhibited all those years were rewarded when Nettie received the MJWA gold medal and the promise of a two-week vacation at the Children's Aid Society camp this Summer.

Nettie asked twenty-five of her "best pals" to join her in the celebration, all of them boys and girls she has come to know through the center. Her special guests of honor were a pair of blond 3-year-old twins, Virginia and Veronica McTighe.

The prize winner, 5 feet 7 inches tall and a mature young lady for her age, said she "almost fainted" when she was told she had won the award. Nettie was selected from 3,000 girls in the society's six centers throughout Manhattan because she "exhibited the best spirit in play and at home."

At home, for Nettie, is 278 Avenue B. She lives with her parents, both of whom were born in Poland, and two older brothers. None could attend the punch-and-cake party at the Center because they were working, but Nettie said they were "very happy" about the award.

Nettie is reticent about her age; she wants to be thought older than she is. But she does admit that she has "two more years to go" at Washington Irving High School and that she wants to attend business school later. Her ambition is to be a secretary.

The friends who helped Nettie celebrate her luck were all 17 or 18, the "crowd" she associates with. They stayed downstairs only long enough to eat the refreshments, pull favors from a paper chandelier, and give Nettie a charm bracelet as a token of their esteem. As soon as possible they

adjourned upstairs in the Center for a session of jitterbugging. The director of the Center, Miss Dorothy L. Lewis, who presented the medal to Nettie, said the authorities would try to inveigle the group into a Paul Jones or some folk-dancing.

The award that Nettie won was founded last year by Mrs. Pierre Jay Wurts, who started a similar one for boys twelve years ago. The boys' award is named in honor of George Lane Nichols, a sportsman-like lad who died at the age of 12. Mrs. Wurts has not specified for whom the initials in the girls' award stand.

Nettie will leave for the Society's Bowdoin Summer camp at New Hamburg, N. Y., toward the end of August. She said she "sure would be glad to get out of the city."

Transposed Score

For Paula Corley Windfall

NETTIE MARKOWSKI
(1924 - 2023)

MICHAEL MARKOWSKI
(b. 1986)

CUE #1: A gentle wind blows. Wind chimes are heard in the distance calling for meditation, reflection, peace.

NETTIE: I don't really hate anything, you know? A mouse, maybe. I don't like a mouse. But I don't really hate. And it makes me happy when I hear people sing or see people dance. I love music. That's gonna be your — your *windfall*. I hope you use it well and distribute it well. Give it to a lot of poor people that deserve it. You know...

Hushed, Unhurried (♩ = ca. 54)

Voice

...help. Help where you can. Be kind. Love peo-ple. Be kind. Love peo-ple. Be kind. Love peo-ple. Be

Synth (Electronics)
mf cresc. poco a poco

B♭ Clarinet (Nettie cont'd)
...help. Help where you can. Be kind. Love peo-ple. Be kind. Love peo-ple. Be... (Play)
pp mp

Piano
pp < p mp sim.

pedal liberally
ped.

5

kind. Love peo-ple. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be

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9 **A** Lovingly, with open arms

kind. Be kind.

fff

f *ff* *f* *ff* *p*

f

B With a tender strength

mf *p* *mp* *p*

mp *mf* *p gently*

Red. *Red.*

mf *p* *pp*

mf *pp*

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16 **poco rit.**

mp p mf p

mf

18 **C A tempo**

p mf p mf

mp sing out mf

20

mf p f p

p mf p f

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22 **D** Nostalgic, faster (♩ = ca. 66)

(softly)
p *mf* *pp*
f *p*
8^{bb}
Ped.

24

f *pp*
mf *ppp*
8^{bb} 8^{bb}

26

mf *p*
L.H.
8^{bb}

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28 *poco rit.* *A tempo* (♩ = ca. 56)

mf *p*

p *mp*

30 *poco rit.* **E** *A tempo* (♩ = ca. 56)

mp *pp* *a bit brighter*

pp

32

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

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34 **F**

f *reminiscing...* *p* *p* *mp*

mf *p delicately, dream-like*

37

p *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

(bring R.H. out)

L.H.

(R.H. loco)

8vb

40 **G** Gently, with more motion

mf *mp*

pp *mp* *p* *mp*

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42

mf *f* *p*

mp *mf*

loco

\sharp
8^{va}
8^{vb}

Pull back slightly ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$)

44

mp *mf* *f*

p *f*

loco

\sharp
8^{va}
8^{vb}

rit.

47

mf *mp* *p*

p

pedal liberally

\sharp
8^{va}
8^{vb}

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H A tempo (♩ = ca. 56)

51

mf *mp*

p

Red.

53

mf *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

mp *p* *mf*

55

Pull back slightly

ff

p *f*

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I Joyfully, awakened (♩ = ca. 62)

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor), and the tempo is marked as quarter note = ca. 62. The score includes various dynamics such as *full sound*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *ff*, *sfz*, and *heavy!*. It features numerous triplets and slurs. The piano part includes a *Red.* (Reduction) section. The vocal line starts at measure 57 and continues through measure 61. The piano accompaniment begins at measure 58. The score concludes with a *Red.* section at the bottom.

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Pull back slightly

Musical score for measures 63-65. The score is in 3/4 time and features a treble clef, a bass clef, and a grand staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measure 63 starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 64 continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 65 features a sixteenth-note triplet in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *f*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs.

J Ecstatically! (♩ = ca. 64)

rit.

Musical score for measures 64-66. The score is in 3/4 time and features a treble clef, a bass clef, and a grand staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measure 64 starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 65 continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 66 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, and *mf*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs.

K Old tempo, new day (♩ = ca. 54)

Musical score for measures 67-69. The score is in 3/4 time and features a treble clef, a bass clef, and a grand staff. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 67 starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 68 continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 69 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *p*, and *mf*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs.

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70 Pull back slightly (♩ = ca. 54)

mf *p* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp*

Red.

73 rit. **L** Slower, remembering (♩ = ca. 50)

CUE #2: Wind and Wind Chimes

n *p*

p *pp* *ppp* *pp* *p* *p < mp* *p* *p < mp*

p *ppp*

Red.

76 rit.

p *mp* *pp* *n*

(gently rolled)

p *mp* *ppp*

(wind and wind chimes fade out)

(wind and wind chimes fade out)

Red.