Libby Larsen

WOLF SONG IN LOS ANGELES

Tenor and Piano
from Songs from the Intergalactic Nightclub

on the poetry of Bill Holm

KENWOOD EDITIONS
Libby Larsen

WOLF SONG IN LOS ANGELES
from Songs from the Intergalactic Nightclub
for Tenor and Piano

Commissioned by Sam Houston State University with funds from a 2017 Enhancement Research Grant awarded to Tony Boutté by SHSU Research Council.

Premiered April 18th, 2018 by Tony Boutté, tenor and Saule Garcia, piano at the Gaetner Performing Arts Facility at Sam Houston State University.

Duration: 3 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

* Songs from the Intergalactic Nightclub, is an imagined volume of popular songs from the future. Unmoored from the sense of time progressing in a linear fashion, this is a future nostalgic for set clock-time, extinction lore, anchors and defined expectation. Imagine yourself in a nightclub, reminiscent perhaps of Star War’s Chalmun’s Cantina on the planet Tatooine – outlaw – in between dimensions – suspended in time – improvised. Here are four songs with words by three poets, Bob Kaufman’s *Battle Report*, (how jazz took over the city), Bill Holm’s *Wolf Song in Los Angeles* (how bones survive) and Scott Joplin (how his life drew music through his hands), and Tom McGrath’s *Jazz at the Intergalactic Nightclub* (how the end of time is the beginning of time). You here – in this nightclub – you don’t think about the future – you don’t think about the past. All you have to do is listen and live in the present.

~Libby Larsen
Libby Larsen

WOLFSONG IN LOS ANGELES
for Tenor and Piano

Hear it
echo down the canyons of Wilshire Boulevard.

Four hundred and four dire wolf skulls
rinsed out of the La Brea tar pits
float in a pool of pale yellow light.

The sign says: “All different wolves.”
Each empty socket a feather narrower,
skulls peculiar as fingerprints,
pickled in this muck ten thousand years.

They all look alike to me, the same wolf
trapped in tar, howling the same last song
four hundred and four times to make it
perfect. Listen carefully...

-Bill Holm, from The Dead Get By With Everything

WOLF SONG IN LOS ANGELES

BILL HOLM
from "The Dead get by with Everything"

LIBBY LARSEN, 2017

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can-yons of Wilshire Boulevard.

Four hundred dire wolf skulls rinsed out of the La Brea tar pits...

Wolf skulls... float...
fleeting shadow

in a pool of yellow light.

move to howl*

The sign says:

* Visit wolpark.org/animal/sounds for examples of wolves howling.
"All dif’r ent wolves.” Each emp- ty sock-et a

feath-er nar-row-er, skulls pe- cu- liar as fin- ger-tips

pick-led in this muck ten thousand years... aa-oo...
move to howl

They all look a-like to me, the same wolf

trapped in tar, oo howling the
same last song  four hundred and four times _ to make it

per - (modify vowel as needed for howling)

LH loco

rit.

Listen carefully...