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MORGAN CYCLE

FOR VOICE AND PIANO

Op. 52



THREE POEMS BY

MORGAN SEGAL

Daffodils Sky One

Daffodils

Daffodils arching their necks upward petals billowing outward flapping like cotton sheets Sunshine splashing in waves across a field stems dancing Their hips curving like marionettes sashaying across a stage An atomizer of pollen sprays of wind Beads of light blowing over the flowers A horizon of daffodils carpets the earth a spongy mat of yellow.

Sky

Pine-needles Resting on the forest floor Sparse Like a plum Purple Flesh like garnets Glittering in the desert Sweeping wind Hailing Sand rising Like rain hitting the sidewalk Pine-needles spreading Lattice covering the ground Edging out **Splintering** A halo of sunshine Rippling through eyelets in the twigs Curving A butterfly opens Its wings Swimming in an ocean of perfume.

One

The wind snaps at my cheeks as I walk from my car. A young woman sleeps on a bench, her hair, long and knotted, spilling onto the sidewalk, The ends, split and forked, forming a tributary – two rivers that lead to nowhere.

A bus casts a shadow over her – her features disappear into the darkness. I walk past her Telling myself that I am different. My hand trails the railing of the doctor's office, the paint is wom and chipped; How long have I been coming here?

At the top of the steps I catch my reflection in the glass – I look away, into the room, at a painting – a sea-scape, waves tumbling and crashing, break-tides overflowing onto the shore.

The door to the second room opens, the doctor ushers me in.
I sit and stare at my knees, thin and bony
I don't have anything to say.

The doctor's eyes look through me – I think of the woman lying on the bench her pupils constricting in the sun – I tell the doctor that I am no different. Bands of sunlight filter through the blinds, the doctor says we are all the same.

I think of a meadow of sunflowers their necks arching in the wind.

I touch a strand of my hair — the end breaks off onto my palm, Splinters.

The woman on the bench is gone.

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