

The Gregg Songs

(1989)

Music: Roger Briggs

Poetry: Linda Gregg

for CAROLINE DILLON

Program Note

In 1989, my final year in South Bend, IN, Caroline Dillon, a vocal student at the time, commissioned these works for her senior recital. I had been interested in the beautiful and direct poetry of Linda Gregg for a few years, having become acquainted with her writing while at the MacDowell Colony. I had also been teaching and creating for 11 years at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, an all women's Catholic college. These experiences gave me time to reflect on the nature of a world with very few men. I had a chance to observe many varieties of female to female relationships (from a male perspective, of course) and also continually reflect on male / female issues. Linda Gregg's poems offer a rather opposite perspective--a females perspective on men and relationships with men. In these songs I offer one male's musical perspective on one female's poetic perspective of relationships with males. I intend these songs to honor the never-ending, beautiful, sometimes bitter sweet, spiral of male/female perceptions of one another.

R.B.

I. Growing Up

(high version)

Linda Gregg

for Carolin Dillon

Roger Briggs

Relaxed, moving
♩ = 72

p calmly

Voice

I am read-ing Li Po. The T. V. is on with the

Piano

mf *p*

Ped. through out

Slightly slower
♩ = 68

Still slower
♩ = 66

Voice

6 sound off. I've seen this mo vie be - fore. I turn

Pno.

mp *mf*

molto rit.
♩ = 64

Voice

11 on the sound just for a mo - ment when the

Pno.

p