

for Lucy and her sister, Phoebe
Commissioned by The Peninsula Women's Chorus on the occasion of its
50th anniversary through the Patricia Hennings New Music Fund

Come Home, Little Sister

Kevin Crossley-Holland (b. 1941)

CECILIA McDOWALL

In mystery ♩ = 63

SOPRANO 1 *mp dolce* *mp*
We_ have not_ snared you, we_ have not_

SOPRANO 2 *mp* *mp dolce*
uh_ We_ have not_ snared you uh_

ALTO 1 *mp dolce* stagger breathing
uh_

ALTO 2 *mp dolce* stagger breathing
uh_

PIANO *mf* resonant like a glass harmonica
con Ped. sempre

Come Home, Little Sister was first performed by The Peninsula Women's Chorus, directed by Martin Benvenuto, on Sunday 30 April 2017, in Santa Clara, California.

This delicate, spring-like poem, by the British poet Kevin Crossley-Holland, is an affectionate salutation to a newborn babe. The poet tells that the parents couldn't decide on a name for their baby, and that instead of imposing an inappropriate name on her ('you are your own word and cannot grow out of a careless visitation'), they will welcome her into the garden of the world, and wait for her to 'declare' herself.

After a hushed introduction of whispered welcomes, the voices burst into a dance-like song in celebration of the new arrival's homecoming. Delightfully, *Come Home, Little Sister* chimes with the very recent arrival of my second granddaughter, Phoebe, a sister for Lucy.

CECILIA McDOWALL

Duration: 5.5 mins

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snared you With the net of a name, With the net of a name, uh

f whispering (with presence) *p mp* *mp*

we have not snared you, we have not snared you, uh

f whispering (with presence) *mp*

we have not snared you, have not snared, we have not snared you, uh

8

a name, We with the net of a name, a name, we

f whispering *f* whispering

we have not snared you, we have not, we have not snared you.

f whispering

we have not snared you, have not snared, we have not

11 *mf*

— have not tamed you, tamed you, tamed you.

mf

have not tamed you, tamed you, tamed

mf

— snared you, We have not tamed you, tamed, tamed

mf

snared you uh tamed you,

14 *mp* *mf*

White

mp *mf*

you. And we will sing you

you. Come in-to the gar - den, come in-to the gar - den lit - tle sis - ter

tamed you. Come in-to the gar - den, lit - tle sis - ter,