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The Loon

Randall Snyder

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THE LOON

Marjorie Saiser (*used with permission*)

Crazy, faithful bird,
trying to map
the lake in her lifetime,
to sing to it at night
and in the mornings when the trees
are dripping onto the wet grass,
to sing to it at the
times when it is not even
listening, when it is intent on some larger buisness.
The loon diving under the moonshine
on the surface, not saying love
swimming to the far side
or to a spot in the middle,
coming up to call toward the moon
behind clouds, to call, her cry
quivering, returning. Singing to the
moon and the lake, as if to join them.
The sky so deep the loon's song
falls into it,
is brought back
to rattle in the space above
the trees, the lapping of the water.

Loon populations have been declining significantly throughout their core range—mostly Canada and the northern tier of the United States—over the past 20 years, due in large part to mercury poisoning, acid rain, lead, and the rise of botulism in the Great Lakes region. Common loons are endangered in Vermont, threatened in New Hampshire and Michigan, and a species of special concern in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

duration: c. 4:00

poem: Marjorie Saiser

The Loon

Randall Snyder

Elegaic ♩ = 69

(2019)

Soprano

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

Mezzo

Mezzo

9 *p* Cra - zy — faith - ful

Mezzo

9 *p* Cra - zy — faith - ful

12 *mp* *p* *mf* bird — try - ing to map the lake — in her

Mezzo

12 *mp* *p* *mf* bird — try - ing to map the lake — in her

15 *p* *mf* life - time — to sing to it at night — and in the

Mezzo

15 *p* *mf* life - time — to sing to it at night — and in the

17 *p*
morn - ings _____ when the trees _____ are drip - ping _____ *p*

Mezzo

17 *p*
morn - ings _____ when the trees _____ are drip - ping _____

17 *f* *mf*

20 _____ on - to the wet grass _____

Mezzo

20 _____ on - to the wet grass _____

20 *p* *mf* *f*

24 _____

Mezzo

24 _____

24 *sub p*

28 *p* *< mf*

Mezzo

to sing to it at the times when it is not e-ven

to sing to it at the times when it is not e-ven

31 *3* *5* *3*

Mezzo

list-en-ing when it is in-tent on some larg-er bus-iness

list-en-ing when it is in-tent on some larg-er bus-iness

34 *> p*

Mezzo

list-en-ing when it is in-tent on some larg-er bus-iness

37

Mezzo

37

37

f *p* *pp*

40

Mezzo

The loon di - ving un - der the moon - shine on the

The loon di - ving un - der the moon - shine on the

40

mf 3 [3] 3

mf 3 [3] 3

p *mf*

mp

43

Mezzo

sur - face not say - ing love swim - ming to the far -

sur - face not say - ing love swim - ming to the far -

43

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

46 *pp*

side or to a spot in the mid - dle com -

Mezzo

49 *sub p*

ing up to call be - hind clouds to

Mezzo

p *mf*

call toward the moon be - hind clouds to

mf p *mf*

51 *p* 3

call her cry quiv - er - ing re - turn - ing

Mezzo

p 3

call her cry quiv - er - ing re - turn - ing

p

55 *mp* *pp* *mf*

ah Sing

Mezzo

55 *mp* *pp* *mf*

ah Sing

55 *pp* *mf*

59 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

ing to the moon and the lake as if to

Mezzo

59 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

ing ing to the moon and the lake as if to

59 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

62 *p* *mf*

join them the sky so deep the

Mezzo

62 *p* *mf*

join them the sky so deep the

62 *p*

65 *mf*⁹

Mezzo

loon's song falls in - to it *ah*

loon's song falls in - to it *ah*

mf *p* *mf*

69 *p* *dim. poco a poco* *mf*

Mezzo

is brought back to rat - tle in the space a - bove the

is brought back to rat - tle in the space a - bove the

p *mf*

73

Mezzo

trees the lap - ping of the wa - ter

trees the lap - ping of the wa - ter

Slower

rit.

76

Mezzo

pp

mp

f

79

Mezzo

p