

Songs of Consonants (2001), Texts and Music by Mark Feezell (b. 1974)

Songs of Consonants is dedicated to my maternal grandfather, an American soldier who died in a German prisoner of war camp during World War II, and to my grandmother who lived on without him. As the cycle progresses, the consonance of faith, expressed through the alliterative consonants of poetry, overcomes the dissonance of war and loss. In a sense, my grandparents followed the greater love of Jesus Christ by giving their lives and rights that others may live. May we all find such courage.

1. Goodbye

draw with words
when words withdraw
pure paints, colors
filled in with light within,
without, with-up,
past towering silences
of waiting memory

3. Strengthenings

cold wind slapping wet
walk, push, act, stand
strengthenings
roots are grown in winter

2. I Will Not Walk Away

Anschluß-grip of hell
i will not walk away
harsh as winter is
i learned to cope with cold before
in the ear take a bullet
my daughter will never taste
no greater love*

4. Found Jewel

thoughts are few
save steady joy
found jewel
yesterday came at last
tomorrow washes in
tide of times

**John 15:13: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. [KJV]*