

Didan Yang, composer

**Paper Boat**  
for Mezzo-Soprano and Cello  
(2016)

Bing Xin(1900-1999), poet

## TEXT AND TRANSLATION

我从来不肯妄弃了一张纸  
总是留着，留着，叠成一只很小的船儿  
从舟上抛下在海里  
有的被风吹卷到舟中的窗里  
有的被海浪打湿，沾在船头上  
我仍是不灰心地每天叠着，叠着  
只希望它们能流到我要它们去的地方去  
母亲，倘若你梦中看见一只很小的白船儿  
不要惊讶它无端入梦  
这是你至爱的女儿含着泪叠的  
万水千山，载着她的爱和悲哀归去

冰心(谢婉莹)

一九二三年八月二十七日

I never leave a piece of paper.  
I always keep it,  
Fold it into little boats,  
And throw the boats from the ship into the sea.  
Some of them fly back into the ship through the window.  
Some of them get wet and stick to the front of the ship.  
I'm still folding them every day,  
Always hoping there is one that can float to where I want it to go.

Mother,  
If you see a very little boat in your dream,  
Don't be surprised to see it in your dream,  
This is what your daughter has folded with tears.  
It floats for a long way over land and sea,  
To come back home with love and sadness.

Bing Xin (Wanying Xie)  
8/27/1923

Translated by Didan Yang

# Paper Boat

for Mezzo-Soprano and Cello

Didan Yang

poet. Bing Xin (1900-1999),

Mezzo-Soprano

Cello

$\text{♩} = 66$

solo

*p dolce*

*p*

6

*p*

10

*mp*

*p*

14

*mp*

我 从 不 肯 妄 弃 了 一 张 纸

14

*mp*

19 *mp*

总是——留着留着——

24 *mp*

叠成一只一只很小的船儿从舟上

*mp* *mf*

29 *mf* *mp* *mf*

抛下在海里有的被天风吹卷到

*mf* *mp* *mf*

34 *mp* *fsub*

舟 中 的 窗 里 有 的 被 海 浪 打 湿

34 *mp* *f* *legato*

38 *mp*

沾 在 船 头 上 我 仍 是 不 灰 心 地

38 *mp*

42 *mp*

每 天 地 叠 着 总 希 望 有 一 只

42 *mp* *detaché* *mp*

46 *mf* *f*

能 流 到 我 要 它 到 的 地 方 去

46 *mf*

49 *f* *mf* *mp*

gliss arco<sub>3</sub>

52 *mp*

母——亲 倘若你梦中

52

57

看 见 一 只 很 小 的 白 船 儿——

57 *mp*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in a bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of several systems of staves. The first system (measures 46-48) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with triplets. The second system (measures 49-51) continues the piano accompaniment with triplets and includes performance markings like 'gliss' and 'arco<sub>3</sub>'. The third system (measures 52-54) shows a change in time signature to 3/4 and includes the lyrics '母——亲 倘若你梦中'. The fourth system (measures 55-56) continues the vocal line with lyrics '看 见 一 只 很 小 的 白 船 儿——'. The fifth system (measures 57-59) continues the piano accompaniment with triplets and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The score uses various dynamics including *mf*, *f*, and *mp*, and includes performance instructions like 'gliss' and 'arco<sub>3</sub>'.

62

— 不要惊讶它无端入梦

*mp* *mp*

67

这是你至爱的女儿含着泪叠的万水千山

*mp*

72

求它载着它的爱和悲哀——归去

*f* *mp*

*mp*

77

*p*

Paper Boat

81

*p*

85

*rit.*

*p*

*mf p*