

Noria al-Hagibiyya
for organ

4 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2016)

Premiered by Lisa Bost, May 2016

Program Note:

The famous Norias of Hama are a set of 17 wooden water wheels positioned along the Orontes River in the city of Hama, Syria. These magnificent structures, which can be almost 70 feet in diameter, were originally built to carry river water to residents of the city. The oldest date from the 14th century, though all have been more recently restored. In addition to their physical beauty, they also make an unearthly sound, as the wood is continually subjected to varying degrees of stress, expansion and contraction. This musical ode to one of the smaller norias, al-Hagibiyya, tries to capture the sense of cyclicity, majesty, and transcendence that these wheels possess.