

Into the Trees

for organ and pre-recorded environmental sounds

7:30 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2023)

Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists for the 2024 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition

Premiered by Douglas Cleveland, July 2024

Program Note:

Into the Trees

Fern-shadows, and the tall magnolia flowers
Drenching the air with perfume and with light,
This is the chosen, the appointed night
The shining instant in your Book of Hours.
You stand a moment listening to the bees
Recite some ancient rune, some ageless charm,
Then, light bow swinging, fiddle under arm
You walk into the silence of the trees.

-- Ruth Gilbert

Gilbert, Florence Ruth. 1966. *The Luthier: Poems by Ruth Gilbert*. Wellington N.Z.: A.H. & A.W. Reed. Used by permission of the author's daughter.

Into the Trees begins with the recorded sounds of a woodland at dawn, and then invites listeners to reflect on the sounds of the organ that are made possible with the wood that is harvested from such landscapes. The middle section of the piece features sounds from the same woodland location at midday; the final section features the sounds of nightfall. All recordings were made in Winneshiek County, Iowa in June 2023. This work was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists in 2022.