KIAN RAVAEI

MORGHE SAHAR

(BIRD OF DAWN)

Iranian Folksong
Arrangement
for Mezzo-Soprano
and Piano

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(2023)

ÆI edition

Commissioned by the National Association of Teachers of Singing and Cincinnati Song Initiative, with major support from Lori Laitman.

PROGRAM NOTE

One of the most celebrated Iranian ballads, *Morghe Sahar (Bird of Dawn)* is widely regarded as the unofficial anthem for Iranian freedom. Its lyrics were conceived in response to the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of the early 20th-century, but present-day Iranians sing it as a rallying cry against Iran's tyrannical government—hoping that one day a bird of dawn will arise from the darkness of the night.

My arrangement is a tribute to the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, and dedicated to the memory of Jina Mahsa Amini. By adding harmony to a traditionally monophonic song, I sought to shroud the melody in a mournful veil, reflecting the sorrow of an oppressed people.

-Kian Ravaei

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Vowels		Consonants			
a	=	mat	g	=	game
ā	=	fall	gh	=	like a guttural "g"
e	=	net			(voiceless uvular plosive)
ey	=	prey	j	=	joy
i	=	ring	kh	=	"ch" in the German word dach (voiceless uvular fricative)
О	=	role	у	=	year
00	=	boot			"s" in <i>vision</i> (voiced postalveolar fricative)
			(1	All :	remaining consonants are the same as in English.)

To aid with pronunciation, a spoken recording of the text may be accessed at: kianravaei.com/downloads/morghe-sahar.mp3

duration ca. 6'

TEXT & TRANSLATION

Morghe Sahar

by Mohammad-Taqi Bahar

Morghe sahar nāle sar kon Dāghe marā tāze tar kon Zāhe sharar bār in ghafas rā bar shekan o zir o zebar kon

Bolbole par baste ze konje ghafas darā Naghmeye āzādiye noe bashar sarā Vaz nafasi arseye in khāke toode rā por sharar kon

Zolme zālem, jore sayād Āshiyānam dāde bar bād Ey khodā ey falak ey tabiat Shāme tārike mā rā sahar kon

No bahār ast, gol be bār ast Abre chashmam zhāle bār ast In ghafas chon delam tang o tār ast

Shole fekan dar ghafas ey āhe ātashin Daste tabiat gole omre marā machin Jānebe āshegh negah ey tāze gol az in

Bishtar kon, bishtar kon Morghe bidel Sharhe hejrān Mokhtasar kon

Bird of Dawn

(translation by the composer)

Bird of dawn, sing your lament. Renew my pain, With a sigh that rains fire, break and overturn this cage.

Flightless nightingale, escape from the cage, Sing the song of human freedom, From the breath of the masses, fill the open earth with fire.

The cruelty of the cruel and the tyranny of the hunter Have left my nest dwindling in the wind, O God, O Universe, O Nature, Turn our dark evening into dawn.

It is a new spring, the flowers have bloomed, The clouds in my eyes are filled with dew, This cage, like my heart, is suffocating and dark.

O fiery sigh, set this cage alight, O hand of nature, do not trim the flower of my life, O flower, give this lover a glance.

Make it longer! Make it longer! Make it longer! You heartless bird, The story of suffering and longing, Make it brief!

IPA TRANSCRIPTION

Morghe sahar nāle sar kon [mor.ge sæ.hær np.le sær kon] Bird of dawn, sing your lament.

Dāghe marā tāze tar kon [dv.ge mæ.rv tv.ze tær kon] Renew my pain,

Zāhe sharar bār in ghafas rā [zp.he sæ.rær bbr in sæ.fæs rb] With a sigh that rains fire,

bar shekan o zir o zebar kon [bær fe.kæn o zir o ze.bær kon] break and overturn this cage.

Bolbole par baste ze konje ghafas darā [bol.bo.le pær bæs.te ze kon.dze gæ.fæs dæ.rv] Flightless nightingale, escape from the cage,

Naghmeye āzādiye noe bashar sarā [næg.me.ye p.zp.di.ye no.e bæ.sær sæ.rp] Sing the song of human freedom,

Vaz nafasi arseye in khāke toode rā [væz næ.fæ.si ær.se.je in xp.ke tu.de rp] From the breath of the masses, fill the open earth

por sharar kon [por ʃæ.rær kon] with fire.

Zolme zālem, jore sayād [zol.me zp.lem dzo.ce sæ.jpd] The cruelty of the cruel and the tyranny of the hunter

Āshiyānam dāde bar bād
[v.ſi.jv.næm dv.de bær bvd]
Have left my nest dwindling in the wind,

Ey khodā ey falak ey tabiat [ej xo.dɒ ej fæ.læk ej tæ.bi.æt] O God, O Universe, O Nature,

Shāme tārike mā rā sahar kon [ʃp.me tp.ri.ke mp rp sæ.hær kon] *Turn our dark evening into dawn.*

No bahār ast, gol be bār ast [no bæ.hɒr æst gol be bɒr æst] It is a new spring, the flowers have bloomed,

Abre chashmam zhāle bār ast [æb.re tʃæʃ.mæm zp.le bɒr æst] The clouds in my eyes are filled with dew,

In ghafas chon delam tang o tār ast [in Gæ.fæs tʃon de.læm tæng o tor æst] This cage, like my heart, is suffocating and dark.

Shole fekan dar ghafas ey āhe ātashin [ʃo.le fe.kæn dær gæ.fæs ej p.he p.tæ.ʃin] O fiery sigh, set this cage alight,

Daste tabiat gole omre marā machin [dæs.te tæ.bi.æt go.le om.ce mæ.cv mæ.tsin] O hand of nature, do not trim the flower of my life,

Jānebe āshegh negah ey tāze gol az in [dʒp.ne.be p.seg ne.gph ej tp.ze gol æz in] O flower, give this lover a glance.

Bishtar kon, bishtar kon [biʃ.tær kon biʃ.tær kon] Make it longer! Make it longer! Make it longer!

Morghe bidel [mor.ge bi.del] You heartless bird,

Sharhe hejrān
[ʃæɾ.he hedz.rɒn]
The story of suffering and longing,

Mokhtasar kon [mox.tæ.sær kon] Make it brief!

ANALYSIS

The melody of *Morghe Sahar* is written in the *dastgah Mahur*. It begins in the *gushe Daramad*, which shares its notes with the Western diatonic scale. In m. 74, the melody modulates to the *gushe Shekaste* (literally translated as "broken"). This *gushe* contains a *koron*, an Iranian microtone which is approximately a quarter-tone flat in relation to 12-tone equal temperament. The *koron* is approximated using a quarter-tone accidental.

Measure 85 includes an example of *tahrir*, a vocal embellishment used to heighten the expression of the melody. We return, or *foorood*, to the *gushe Daramad* in m. 91 before returning to *Shekaste* in m. 110. Measure 127 modulates to another *gushe* known as *Delkash*, which also contains a *koron*. The piece ends by returning to *Daramad*. (The tonal modulations in the melody are my own addition.)

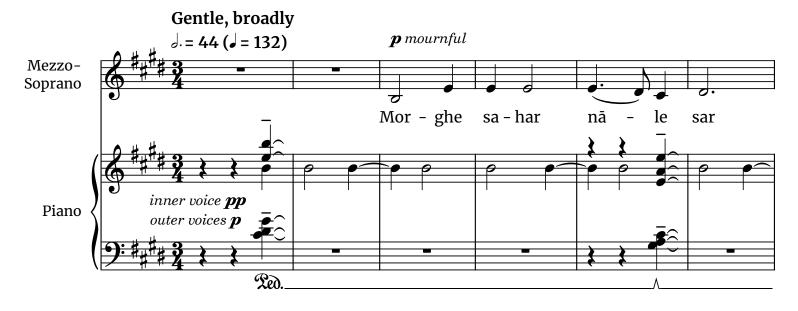
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

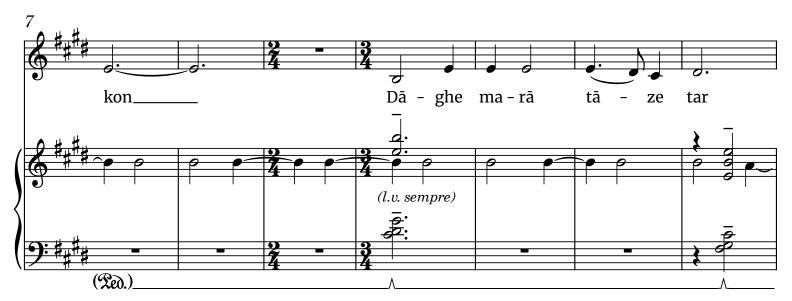
My sincerest thanks to Farzad Amoozegar and Fariborz Azizi for lending their expertise in Iranian classical music, Richard Pearson Thomas and Don Freund for their guidance in vocal writing, and Carmen Edano, Lauren McAllister, Tivoli Treloar, and Gabrielle Turgeon for their suggestions regarding the voice part.

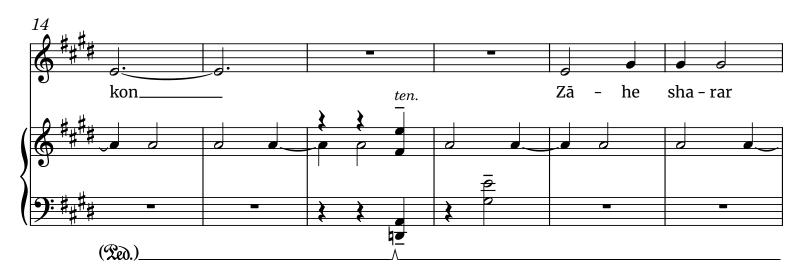
MORGHE SAHAR

(Bird of Dawn)

Words by Mohammad-Taqi Bahar Melody by Morteza Neidavoud Arranged by Kian Ravaei (2023)

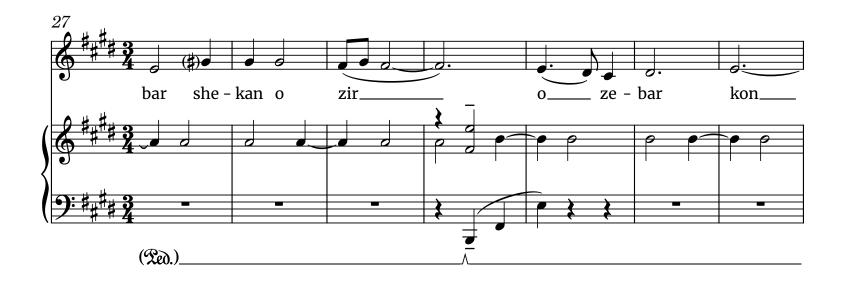




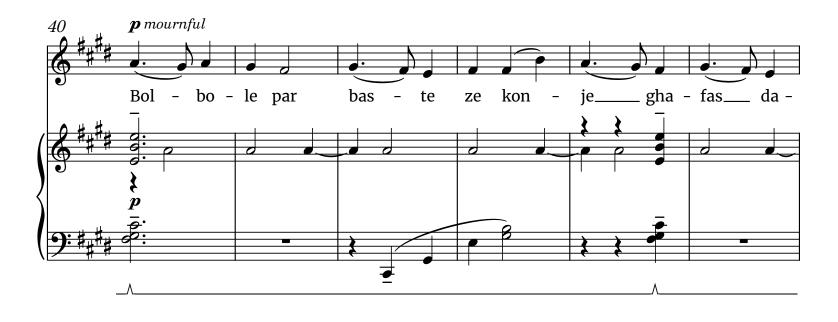


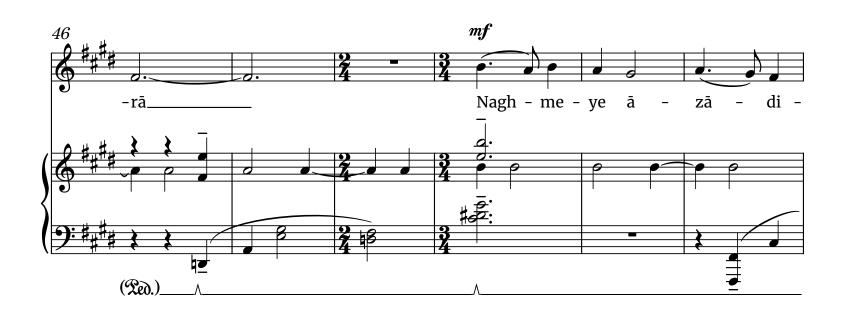
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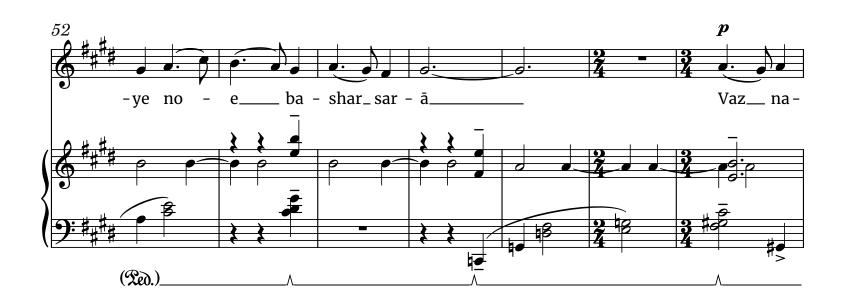


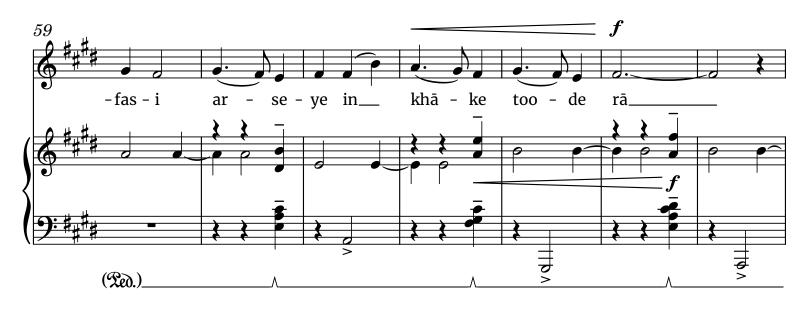


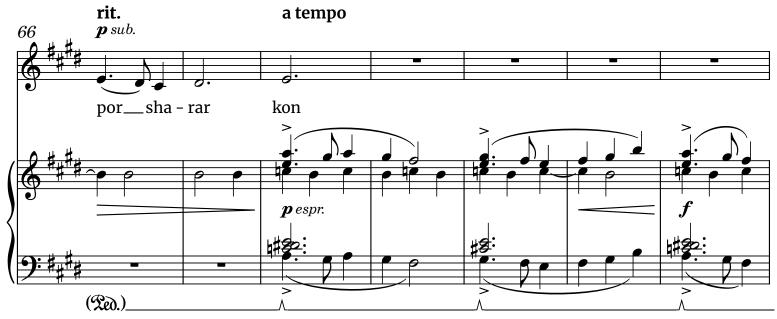








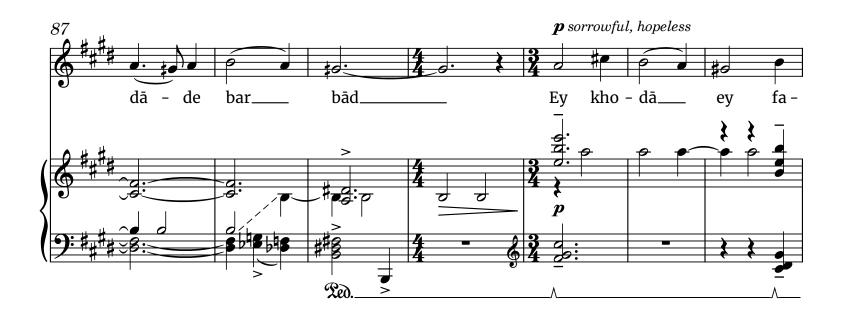




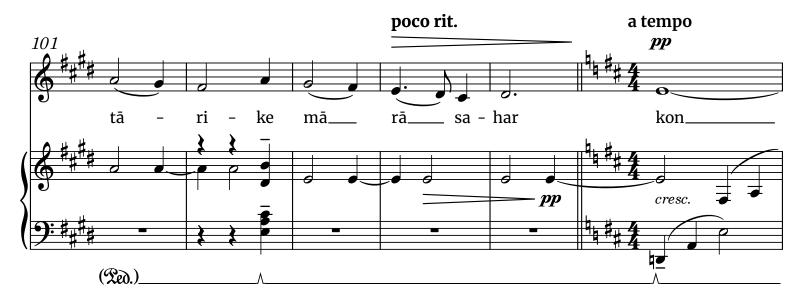


*) ‡ = Quarter-tone sharp

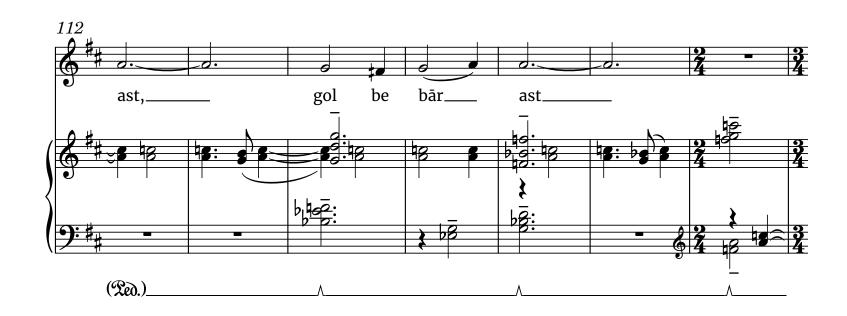








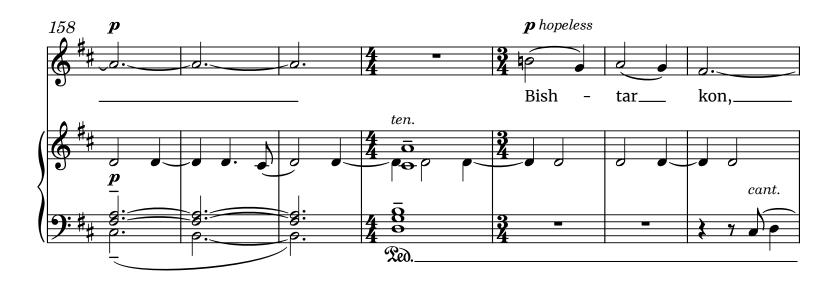


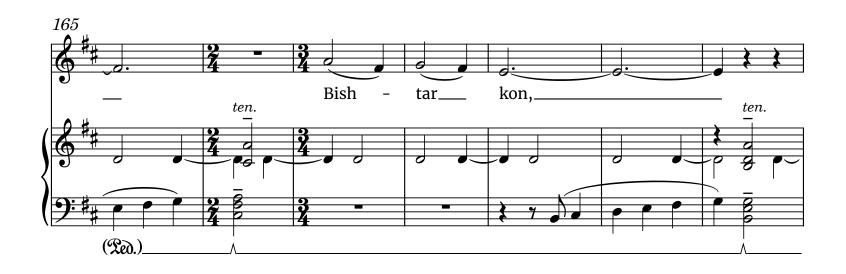


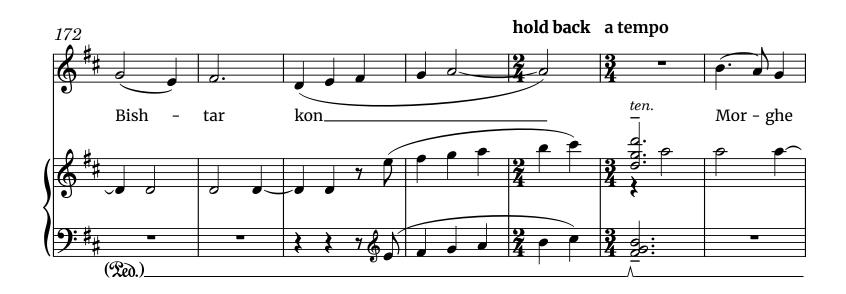


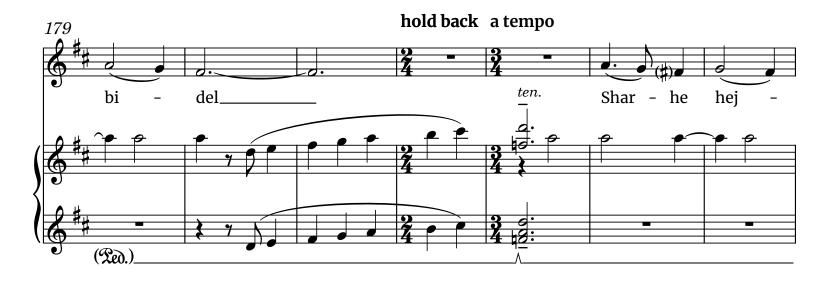
*) d = Quarter-tone flat

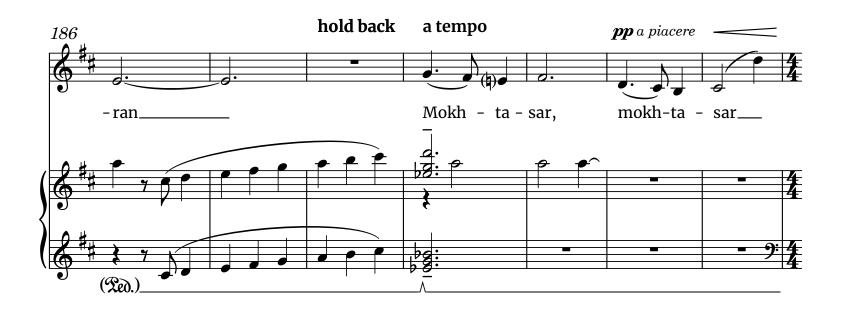


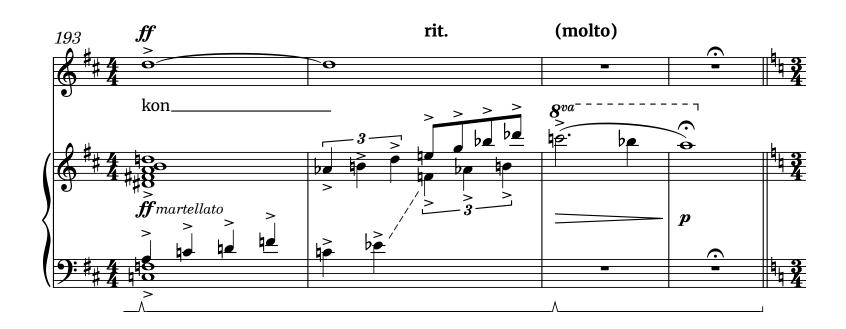












Slower, freely *J*⋅= 40 (*J* = 120)

