



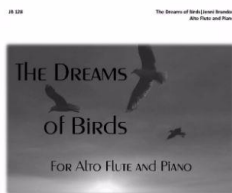
New Piece in the GPFS Library: *The Dream of Birds* for alto flute by Jenni Brandon

Reviewed by GPFS Member [Emily Stanek](#)



Almost every flute player that I know, loves the rich tone and timbre of colors of the alto flute. *The Dream of Birds* by American composer, [Jenni Brandon](#), left, is a piece for the alto flute lover. In the program notes of her piece, she says:

The Dream of Birds explores the world of what birds might dream. Would they dream of running, of flying to the sun? Would they dream of being human? I wanted to explore the possibility of bird dreams while continuing to be evocative of a bird with bird-like songs in the alto flute. The little turns and grace notes as well as the flutter tongue played by the alto flute offer the listener the voice of the bird. The piano, both supportive and, at times, grand, helps give flight to these dreams of birds.



Music by
JENNI BRANDON

Jenni Brandon Music

The piece begins and ends with an expressive and dream-like cadenza, displaying bird-like sounds from fast arpeggiated figures and flutter tonguing. The opening motive of the cadenza is a grace-note figure jumping to a fifth (G to D), which comes back throughout the piece in various inversions, keys, and intervals. The sound of this motive reminds me of horn calls, suggesting the forest and of course, birds. The cadenza also displays arpeggiated and triplet motives that the composer uses throughout the piece in combination with the grace-note motive. These motives together go through a series of various tempos, time and key signatures, as well as a spectrum of dynamic color changes, all suggesting the many voices of birds and the possibility of their dreams. I love the relaxing nature of both playing and listening to this piece and its calming effect on our hearts, very much needed. Here is a Youtube recording of Jeni Olson, to whom the piece was written: [Recording](#). Information on the piece and how to purchase on [Jenni's webpage](#).

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