

S o l e i l d ' a u t o m n e

G l e n d a L u c k

Music and Lyrics

2025

Premiere Performance

Blake Clawson, *Conductor*

Renova New Music Ensemble, *Choir*

Andrew Thomas Wilder, *Classical Guitar*



Soleil d'automne,
regarde les fleurs du champ,
comme elles baissent leurs têtes.
Le vent emmène nos pétales au loin,
l'un après l'autre.

Autumn sun,
look at the flowers of the field,
how they lower their heads.
The wind carries our petals far away,
one by one.

Soleil d'automne,
brillant à travers les branches des arbres
tandis que les feuilles tombent
du ciel à la terre,
se pose là en prière.

Autumn sun,
shining through the branches of the trees
while the leaves fall
from the sky to the earth,
resting themselves there in prayer



Grusin Music Hall

University of Colorado, Boulder

March 19, 2025

7:30 pm

Program Notes

I composed this piece to embody the essence of autumn, reflecting on the beauty and transcendence in nature during this season of change. The imagery in *Soleil d'automne*—the "autumn sun" and "les fleurs du champs" (the flowers of the field)—highlights the interplay between light and nature, portraying a serene yet poignant scene. As flowers "baissent leur têtes" (lower their heads), this evokes introspection and surrender to transformation, emphasizing the delicate, fleeting moments of life. The line "Le vent emmène nos pétales au loin, l'un après l'autre" (The wind brings our petals far away, one after the other) speaks to the themes of loss and impermanence, reminding us that beauty is often temporary. The second stanza expands on this seasonal transition, describing the falling leaves as "se pose là en prière" (settling there in prayer), suggesting reverence and acceptance. While these leaves may signify endings, they contribute to the cycle of life and rebirth, inviting reflection on the beauty inherent in change and prompting contemplation of one's place in the larger tapestry of life.

The seed to this choral work began as a simple song I sang on my classical guitar while sitting in a field under the warm September sun, immersed in nature. I was not just singing about autumn; I was embodying it. My experience living in French-speaking Senegal and subsequent studies in the language inspired me to write in French. Transforming this art song into a choral piece has been deeply satisfying, celebrating the beauty of shared voices and creating a communal musical experience. The gentle whistling and delicate guitar accompaniment enhance the work's intimacy, grounding it in nature. Together, these elements craft an immersive atmosphere that captures the haunting beauty of autumn, encouraging listeners to reflect on their own experiences while fostering a sense of calm and connection to the environment.



Curious about commissioning a special piece of music?

Contact

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Glendaluck.com

In the relentless pace of modern life, Glenda Luck's music creates a sanctuary for you—an intimate invitation to pause, breathe and reconnect with the emotions and stories that celebrate your humanity. Rooted in a deep bond with nature, inspired by a childhood spent dancing barefoot through the forest in upstate New York, her compositions offer you a moment of warmth and stillness, a chance for transformation and meaning.

Luck brings you a unique voice in classical music—one that speaks directly to your heart. This music invites you to feel your own authenticity. It draws you into an intimate community of shared experience, offering a powerful connection that transcends time and place. In a world where genuine connection often feels lost, Luck's compositions compel us to remember who we are. Through refined craftsmanship and curated orchestrations, she will enrapture you with an honesty that will inspire you to clarity, and introspection. The experience of losing yourself in this music, is a journey for you to reclaim the beauty and meaning woven into every moment of your life.