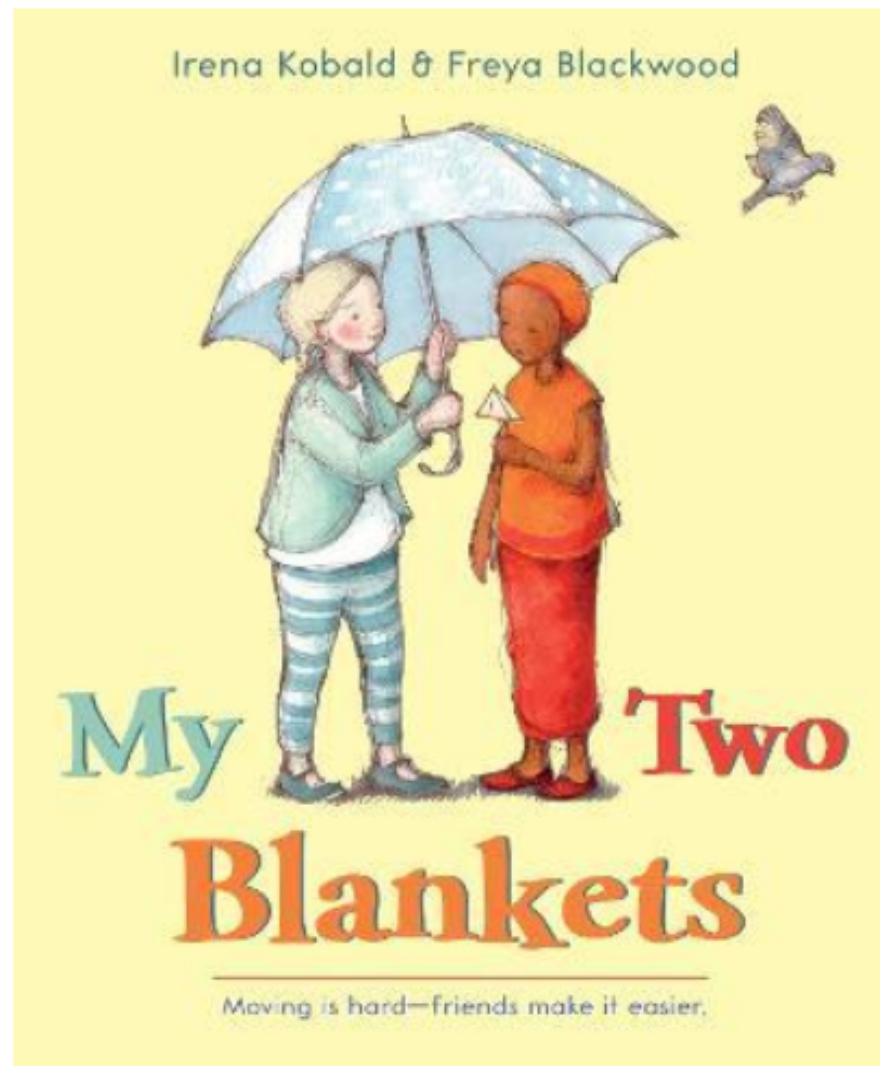

My Two Blankets

Story by Irena Kobald / Music by Stephen Hill

For Narrator, String Quartet, Piano, and Percussion



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This musical setting of “My Two Blankets”
was commissioned
by the Omaha Conservatory of Music
for their “Stories from Childhood” series.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=my+two+blankets+stephen+hill



About the Author...

Irena Kobald was born in Austria, has a master's degree in Russian and had picked up English while living in various overseas countries by the time she came to Australia at the age of 26. She has worked in a wide range of remote schools in the Northern Territory, taught German in Queensland high schools and English as a Second Language to both adults and children so her understanding of how language is acquired is both personal and technical, experiential and academic.

Her first book *My Two Blankets* includes the themes of friendship, family, feelings, cultural diversity, integration, and social issues, to name a few. It succinctly describes what it feels like having to learn a new language. While the book falls into the category of a 'children's book', it is also highly inspirational to adults due to its underlying messages of change, adaptation, loneliness, resilience and re-building your identity in a 'strange' or 'new' environment. Recently added to the list of ***Top 20 Books used in Australian Classrooms***, *My Two Blankets* was the 2015 Australian Book Council Picture Book of the Year. It was shortlisted for the 2015 Prime Minister's Literary Award, received a 'starred' review for the Kirkus Prize (U.S.) and was reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review* (23/08/2015). Irena has done over 250 presentations with *My Two Blankets* in 9 countries and 3 languages. She is very proud of that - as it really is the proof how much this story touches people.

Website: <https://www.stephenhillcomposer.com>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/sarahtim-music/stories-from-childhood-my-two-blankets-music-by-stephen-hill>

About the Composer...

Stephen Hill (b.1958) was born and raised in Southern California. He composes for the simple joy of it. The name **SARAHTIM** comes from simply combining the name of his daughter Sarah and his son Timothy.

Stephen studied at Cerritos College from 1976-78 with composer Philip Westin, who studied with Roy Harris and Ingolf Dahl. From 1978-1980, Stephen studied with composer W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. McBeth had studied with Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson. Stephen continued with graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-84) with composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim and William Hill.

For nearly 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music concurrently in both the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and a Public School (California High School) setting. With a full-time teaching load, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege to compose beyond just the summer months. Stephen still works with students by continuing to teach part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra at Calvary Chapel, La Habra, Ca. where he attends.

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“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8 NIV)

My Two Blankets

Story by
Irena Kobald

Music by
Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

Reflectively $\text{♩} = 170$ A

Narrator H $\frac{3}{4}$ My Two Blank-ets (Mov-ing is hard, but friends make it eas-i - er.) My Two Blank-ets

Violin 1 G $\frac{3}{4}$ *p* *pp* *p*

Violin 2 G $\frac{3}{4}$ *p* *pp* *p*

Viola C $\frac{3}{4}$ *p* *pp* *p*

Violoncello C $\frac{3}{4}$ *p* *pp* *p*

Oud (opt.) G $\frac{3}{4}$

Piano G $\frac{3}{4}$ *p* *p* *p*

Percussion H $\frac{3}{4}$ Wind Chimes *p* Glockenspiel *p* *pp*

2 3 4 5 6 7

B

Nar. *By I - re-na Ko-bald*

Vln. 1 *Dolce mp*

Vln. 2 *Dolce mp*

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

The musical score is for a piece titled 'My Two Blankets'. It features a vocal line (Nar.) and instrumental parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Oud (optional), Piano, and Percussion. The score is in 3/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'By I - re-na Ko-bald'. The instrumental parts include a melodic line for the violins, a sustained harmonic accompaniment for the viola and cello, and a rhythmic accompaniment for the piano and percussion. The score is marked with 'Dolce' and 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamics. A large watermark 'Personal Score' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. At measure 22, the time signature changes to 3/4. The score includes parts for Nar., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., Oud (opt.), Pno., and Perc. The Percussion part includes Djembe (Ad Lib.) or Congas, Bongos, and Gourd Maracas (Opt. Shaker). Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Persuasive Score" is overlaid across the entire page.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Nar. **D**
Aunt-ie used to call me Cart-wheel

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Oud (opt.) *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Perc. *mp*

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

Personal Score

Nar. **Then came the war.**

Vln. 1 *f* *mp* *gliss.*

Vln. 2 *f* *mp* *gliss.*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mp*

Oud (opt.) *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Perc. *mf* *mp*

34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Freely

Nar. Aunt-ie did-n't call me Cart - wheel any-more. We came to this country to be safe. Everything was

Vln. 1 *gliss.* *f*

Vln. 2 *gliss.* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Oud (opt.) *f*

Pno. *f*

Perc. *f*

42 43 44 45 46 47 48

Nar. **E** ♩=80

strange. The peo-ple were strange. The food was strange. The an-i-mals and the plants were strange.

con sord

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Oud (opt.)

Pno. *p*

Perc. Wind Chimes *p*

Nar. Ev-en the wind felt strange. Nobody spoke like I did.

Vln. 1 senza sord. *pp*

Vln. 2 senza sord. *pp*

Vla. senza sord. *pp*

Vc. senza sord. *pp*

Oud (opt.)

Pno. *pp*

Perc. Rain Stick *p*

54 55 56 57

Nar. F $\text{♩} = 170$

When I went out, it was like stand-ing un-der a wa-ter-fall of strange sounds. The wa-ter-fall

Vln. 1 pizz. arco pizz. *p*

Vln. 2 pizz. arco pizz. *p*

Vla. *p* *p*

Vc. *p* *p*

Oud (opt.)

Pno. *p*

Perc. Wind Chimes Triangle *p*

Nar. was cold. It made me feel a - lone.

arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Wind Chimes

Perc. Triangle

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

G rit.

Nar.

It felt like it was - n't me an - y - more.

Vln. 1

mp

Vln. 2

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mp

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

mp

Perc.

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

H ♩=170

Nar. *When I was home I wrapped my-self in a blan-ket of my own words and sounds.*

Vln. 1 *p mp*

Vln. 2 *p mp*

Vla. *p mp*

Vc. *p mp*

Oud (opt.) *mp*

Pno. *p mp*

Wind Chimes *p*

Perc. *p*

82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89

Nar. **I**
I called it my old blan-ket. My old blan-ket was warm. It was soft. It

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece 'My Two Blankets'. The score is for a vocal soloist (Nar.) and a chamber ensemble. The vocal line is in a major key with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'I called it my old blan-ket. My old blan-ket was warm. It was soft. It'. The instrumental parts include two violins (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2), a viola (Vla.), a cello (Vc.), an optional oud (Oud (opt.)), piano (Pno.), and percussion (Perc.). The percussion part features a steady rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The score is marked with measure numbers 90 through 97 at the bottom. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PERSUAL SCORE' is overlaid across the entire page.

Nar. co-vered me all ov er. It made me feel safe. Some-times I didn't want to go out.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105

PERSUASION SCORE

Nar.  I want-ed to stay un-der my blank-et for - ev-er. One day a

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Oud (opt.) 

Pno.  *p*

Perc. 

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114

Nar. *girl in the park* *smiled at me.* *Then she waved.* *I want-ed to smile back* *but*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122

Nar. I was scared. I kept walk-ing with Aunt-ie. When I looked back ^K the girl waved a-gain.

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

Oud (opt.)

Pno. *pp*

Perc.

Nar. Next time we went to the park, I looked for the girl. She was-n't there. We went back three times be

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *p mp*

Vc. *p mp*

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

Personal Score

131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138

Nar. *fore I saw her a-gain She waved and smiled, and I felt warm in- side. The girl came up to us and said some-thing.*

Vln. 1 *mp p p*

Vln. 2 *mp p p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

Nar. Her words were strange. It was like be-ing back un - der the cold wa-ter

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The top staff is for the Narrator (Nar.), with lyrics: "Her words were strange. It was like be-ing back un - der the cold wa-ter". Below are staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.), all marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Viola and Violoncello parts begin with a fermata. The Oud (opt.) staff is empty. The Piano (Pno.) part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs. The Percussion (Perc.) part is empty. The score is numbered 147 through 154 at the bottom.

Nar. **N** fall. But the girl kept smiling. She took me to the swings. I got on

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The top staff is for the Narrator (Nar.), with lyrics: "fall. But the girl kept smiling. She took me to the swings. I got on". A box containing the letter 'N' is placed above the first measure. Below the narrator are staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.), all of which play sustained chords. Below these is an optional Oud (Oud (opt.)) staff. The Piano (Pno.) part consists of two staves with a flowing accompaniment. The Percussion (Perc.) part is represented by two empty staves. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Persuasive Score" is overlaid across the center of the page.

PERSUASION SCORE

The score is for a piece titled "My Two Blankets" and is page 22 of a larger work. It features a narrator (Nar.) and several instrumental parts: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Oud (opt.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The music is in a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics for the narrator are: "and she pushed me high-er and high-er. I want-ed to laugh. I want-ed to tell". The score includes dynamic markings of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). A large, diagonal watermark reading "PERSUASION SCORE" is overlaid across the entire page. At the bottom of the page, there are six measure numbers in boxes: 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, and 168.

P

Nar.

her how glad I was that we were friends.

Vln. 1

mp

Vln. 2

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mp

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

mp

Perc.

Glk.

p

Wind Chimes

pp

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

Personal Score

rit.

Nar. ||

But I did-n't know how.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Oud (opt.)

Pno.

Perc.

Wind Chimes

Wind Chimes

Wind Chimes

pp

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The vocal line (Nar.) is at the top, with lyrics 'But I did-n't know how.' The instrumental parts include Violin 1 and 2, Viola, Violoncello, Oud (optional), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The piano part features a complex texture with arpeggiated chords and a melodic line in the right hand. The percussion part includes 'Wind Chimes' and a melodic line. Dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *p* (piano). A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present at the beginning of the section.

Q = 170

Nar.

When I was home,

I hid un-der my old blan-ket

I won-dered if I would al-ways feel sad.

Vln. 1

mp

Vln. 2

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mp

Oud (opt.)

mp

Pno.

mp

mp

Perc.

p

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

Nar. I won-dered if I would ev - er feel like me a - gain.

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Oud (opt.) *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Perc. *p* Wind Chimes

195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203

Persuasive Score