

Song of the Maples

For Goshen College, on the occasion of the inauguration of Dr. Rebecca J. Stoltzfus as the 18th president

Our seeds have wings the wind
propels. See how each leaf

unfolds, its map of roads
radiating outward. We stretch

toward light yet trust the dark
from which we sprout, the rich

earth we clutch and query.
What we reach for feeds us,

becomes love conveyed
in concentric circles

swelling from the heartwood.
Music flows through the flutes

of our veins. Give us this day
a cote of doves, a parliament

of owls and for a crown,
a thousand green prayer flags

shimmering in the rain,
burning red or gold as we bow.



BROADSIDE

Goshen College
Goshen, IN 46526
021418 V41 N01

Shari Wagner

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