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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP
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First published in 2022

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-277208-4 (paperback)

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural,
recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests.
The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental
regulations of the country of origin.

For Oswin.
With thanks to Helen,
for harmonizing on this 'song'

— C.A.

For Diana, a panda fan
— F.W.

'Where words fail, music speaks'
Hans Christian Andersen

^a song in the MIST

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Chi is hiding.
If you're quiet, if you're quick,
you might just see her.

Between conifer trees and bamboo leaves.
A shy panda bear.

An illustration of a panda in a bamboo forest. The panda is on the left, partially hidden by bamboo leaves. In the center, several small yellow birds are perched on bamboo branches, with pink dashed lines radiating from them, suggesting sound or movement. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with more bamboo and a hint of a sunset or sunrise sky.

Chi loves to listen.
Being silent brings sounds to her ears.

The swish of bamboo.
The chitter of tiny birds.

An illustration of a panda sitting in a bamboo thicket, looking up towards the right. A long, flowing red ribbon or streamer is suspended in the air, trailing off to the right. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with more bamboo and a hint of a sunset or sunrise sky.

But today, something new.

Gentle, sweet, the air made musical.

It floats on the breeze,
curls around trees,

makes a bridge
over the water . . .

. . . and brings Chi to a little house.



Carefully she creeps,
as near as she dare,
closer to the sound.

Until she finds it.

A boy
who blows breath
through a piece of bamboo.



He stops.
He has seen her.

