

Three Songs for Soprano

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(1917)

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(1976) ASCAP

Lento, con tristezza [♩. ca. 54]

I. Nonentity

Soprano

The stars that open and shut

Rehearsal Piano

p *cresc.* *f* *p*

Follow my shallow breast Like stars in a pool. The soft wind blowing

6

cool, Laps little crest after crest Of ripples across my breast. And

11

dark grass under my feet Seems to dabble in me Like grass in a brook.

16

f

Oh, Oh, _____ and it _____ is sweet _____ To be all these things, _____

21 *f* *p*

cresc. *f* *Un poco meno mosso, deliberatamente* *p*

not to be, _____ An - y more my - self. _____ For look, _____ I am

26 *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto* *p*

a Tempo

wea - ry of my - self. _____

31

Ritard *a Tempo*

36

II. A Baby Asleep After Pain

Allegretto, con moto [ca. 69]

p

As a drenched, _____ drowned, _____ bee. _____ Hangs

numb and hea - vy from a ben - ding flower, _____ So clings to

6

me My ba - by, _____ her brown hair brushed with wet tears And

11

laid a - gainst her cheek; _____ Her soft white legs hang - ing -

16 *p dolce*

he - vi - ly o - ver my arm. Swing to my

21

walk - ing - move - ment, weak With af - ter pain. My sleep - ing ba - by hangs up - on my

26 *pp*

life Like a bur - den she hangs on me; She who has

32 *p*

al - ways seem - ed so light, Now wet with tears and pain hangs heav - il - y,

38

Ev - en her float - ing hair _____ sinks heav - il - y, Reach - - - ing

down - wards; As the wing of a drenched, _____ drowned _____ bee _____

Are a heav - i - ness, _____ And a wear - i - ness, _____

ritard - - - un poco - - -

III. After the Opera

Allegro Marcato [♩. ca. 63-69]

Down the stone stairs Girls with their large eyes wide with tra-ge-dy—

f

This system contains the first vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a strong, rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings.

Lift looks of shocked and mo-men-tous e-mo-tion up at me.—

6

This system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a measure rest of 6 measures.

p And I smile. *f* La-dies

11

This system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a measure rest of 11 measures. Dynamic markings *p* and *f* are present.

Step-ping like birds with their bright and point-ed feet Peer an-xious-ly forth, as

16

This system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a measure rest of 16 measures.

if for a boat to car - - - ry them _____ out of the wreck - - -

21

age; _____ And a-mong _____ the wreck of the the - a - tre crowd _____

26

dim. *p* *f*

I stand and smile. _____ (I smile) _____ They take

31

p

tra - ge - dy _____ so be - com - ing - ly; _____ Which _____ plea - ses me. _____

36

p *doloroso* *cresc.*

But when I meet the wea - ry eyes The

41 *p* *pp*

f *p*

red - dened ach - ing eyes of the bar - man with

45 *cresc.* *f*

p *meno mosso, un poco*

thin arms, I am glad to go back where I

49 *p* *pp* *p*

a Tempo

came from.

53 *p* *sf*