

Three Whitman Songs

For Clarinet, Horn, 'Cello or Bassoon and Medium Voice



Joelle Wallach

Three Whitman Songs

for clarinet, horn, bassoon or cello and medium voice

I

Give Me the Splendid Silent Sun

Page 3

Give me the splendid silent sun with all his beams full-dazzling,
 Give me autumnal fruit ripe and red from the orchard,
 Give me a field where the unmow'd grass grows,
 Give me an arbor, give me the trellis'd grape,
 ...odorous at sunrise
 ...a sweet-breath'd woman
 ...a perfect child... away aside from the noise of the world...
 Give me to warble spontaneous songs recluse by myself, for my own ears only,
 Give me O Nature your primal sanities!
 Yet ...I see what I sought to escape, confronting, reversing my cries,
 see my own soul trampling down what it ask'd for.)

II

A noiseless patient spider

Page 8

A noiseless patient spider,

...

It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
 Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
 Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,
 Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,

...

Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

III

Reconciliation

Page 12

Word over all, beautiful as the sky!
 Beautiful that war, and all its deeds of carnage, must in time be utterly lost;
 That the hands of the sisters Death and Night, incessantly softly
 wash again, and ever again, this soil'd world:
 ... For my enemy is dead--a man divine as myself is dead;
 I look where he lies, white-faced and still, in the coffin--I draw near;
 I bend down, and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.

This score is "in C," with all pitches in all instruments sounding as written.

Three Whitman Songs

I

Give Me the Splendid Silent Sun

Walt Whitman (1865)

Joelle Wallach

$\text{♩} = 88-92$

Clarinet

Horn

Cello
or
Bassoon

mp *mf*

Give me the splen - did, si - lent sun, all of its beams full daz - ling;

All instruments sounding as written.

5

give me the jui - - cy au-tum-nal fruit, a field where un - - mow'd grass grows;

Musical notation for measures 4-5. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features two triplet markings over the first two measures. The piano accompaniment consists of three staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and two left-hand bass clef staves. The piano part includes triplet markings and dynamic markings such as *mf* and *p*.

7

Musical notation for measures 6-7. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a triplet marking in measure 6. The piano accompaniment continues with two bass clef staves, featuring triplet markings and a dynamic marking of *mp* in measure 7.

9

give me an ar - bor _____ of trel-lis'd grapes,

Musical notation for measures 8-9. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a triplet marking in measure 8. The piano accompaniment continues with two bass clef staves, featuring triplet markings and dynamic markings of *mp* and *poco*.

11

od - 'rous at sun - rise;

mp

13

a sweet breath'd wo-man, a per-fect

p *f ma dolce* *mf*

15

child, a-way, a-side from the noise of the world.

mf

17 *mf* *poco*

Give me to war - ble spon - ta - ne - ous songs, re - liev'd, re - cluse by my - self,

19

for my ears on - ly, on - ly; give me na - ture's pri - mal sa - ni -

non troppo

21 *subito meno mosso* *poch. poco misterioso*

ties. Yet I see what I sought to es - cape and I see my own soul, my

subito meno mosso

24 *f*

own soul tram-ple-ing down, tram-ple-ing down, tram-ple-ing down

26 *mp*

what it ask'd for.

29

p *pp* *pp* *pp*

A Noiseless, Patient Spider

II

♩ = 84

mp

A noise-less, pa - tient

4

spi - - der, _____ it launched forth fi - la - ment, fi - la - ment, fi - la - ment, out ³of its -

poco *mp*

6

self, e - ver un-reel - ing tire-less-ly speed-ing them.

mf

8

And you, O my soul,

mp

poco

mp

poco

f

poco

10

where you stand sur-round-ed, sur-round-ed in

poco

f

mf

mp

mf

13 *mf*

mean - ing - less o - ceans of space, cease - less - ly mus - ing, ven - tur - ing, throw - ing;

poco f *mp*

15 *mp* *poco f*

you, O my soul, seek - ing the spheres, seek - ing the

mp

18 *a tempo dolce mp*

spheres to con - nect them; Till the

a tempo dolce mp

pp cantab. lontano sub. pp

low C for cello version only

21

gos-sa-mer thread you fling catch some-where, my soul, — O my soul! —

cantabile
p

mp

25

Rit.

Rit.

legato

lontano
pp

low C held as double stop for cello version only

III Reconciliation

$\text{♩} = 66$

mp

Word o - ver all, beau - ti - ful as the sky!

Clarinet tacet

mp

mp

5 Beau-ti-ful that war must in time be ut-ter-ly lost;

mf

p

mf

9 That the hands of Death and

mp

mf

poco

cantab. mf

12 night in-ces-sant-ly soft-ly wash a - gain, and e - ver a - gain this soil'd world.

mp

p

mp cantab.

15 *mp*

My e-ne-my is dead a

mp

sempre mp cantab.

19

man as di-vine as my-self; he lies, white-faced and still... I draw near

mp

22

bend down and light-ly touch his face with my lips.

cantab.

26 *mf*

Word o-ver all, beau-ti-ful as the sky! Beau-ti-ful

poco f

cantab.

poco

mp

30

that war must in time be ut-ter-ly lost; that the hands of Death

mf *mp* *piu f*

33

and Night in - ces-sant-ly soft-ly wash a - gain, and e - ver a - gain this

poco *p*

double stops for cello version only

36

soil'd world.

pp *rit.*

small notes for bassoon version

