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

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

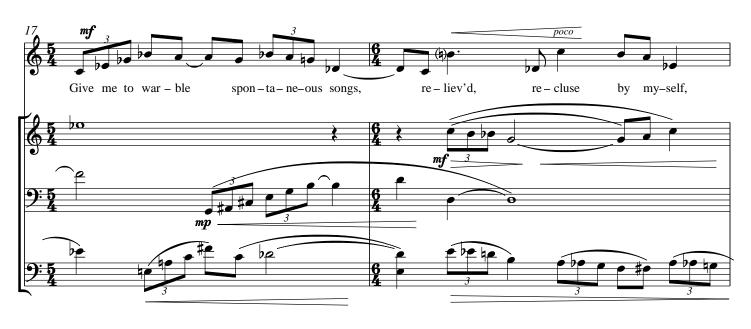


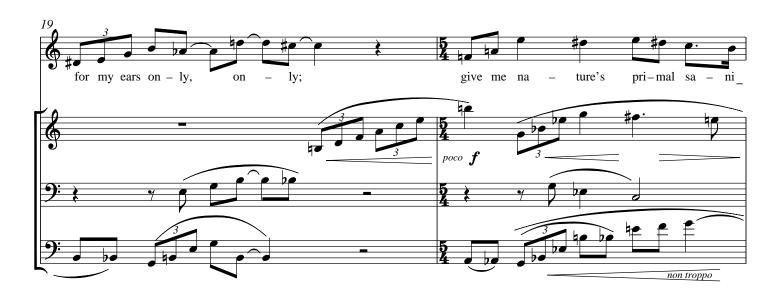
© Joelle Wallach. All rights reserved.

All instruments sounding as written.





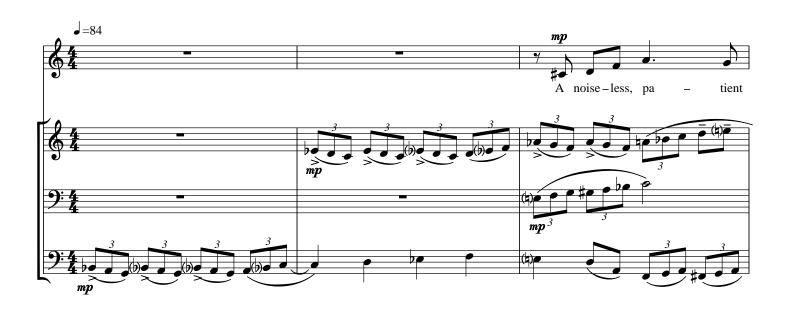


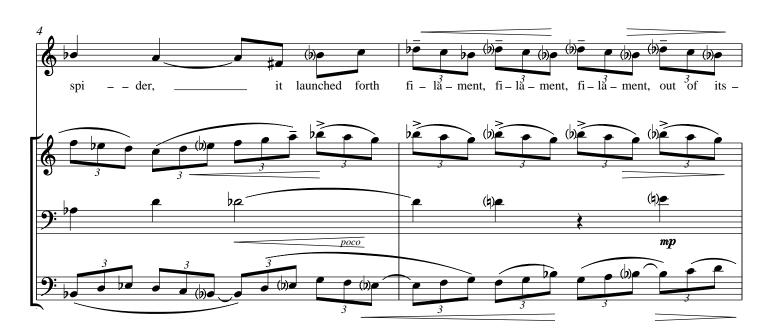






A Noiseless, Patient Spider II











III Reconciliation





