

BEN ARAUJO

Night Piece

for two unaccompanied sopranos

text by James Joyce
(2022)

Notes

For sprechgesang (x on stem)

The pitch that is notated serves as a reference point from which to start. However, one should not hold the same pitch for each note's duration; rather, one should veer slightly off from it (for example, a slight downward glissando, unless indicated otherwise). The resulting effect should be *quasi parlando* (nearly speaking but not quite).

First performance

"Night Piece" had its first performance on May 11, 2022 in the Performance Hall of the Royal College of Music, London, as part of the "Contemporary Music in Action" concert series, and was performed by sopranos Alysia Hanshaw and Laura Mekhail.

Night Piece

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(2022)

Slow (♩ = ca. 60)

Sprechgesang

Sing

p *mf* *p* *p*

Soprano 1

mm Gaunt in gloom, mm a - o u - mm mm o

Sprechgesang

mf *p*

Soprano 2

mm mm o u - a - mm mm the pale stars their tor-ches o

8

mf *p* *f* *pp* *p*

S. 1

en shrou-ded, wave, Ghostfires faint il- lume u

Sprechgesang

f *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

S. 2

o - a - o - u, from hea-ven's far ver-ges il- lume, ar-ches on soa-ring ar-ches,

15

S. 1

mf *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

mm_____

Night's sin-dark nave.

Se-ra- phim, se-ra- phim,

3 - 5"

S. 2

Night's sin-dark nave._____

Se-ra- phim, se-ra- phim, the

whisper (spoken)

whisper (spoken)

sing

22

S. 1

sing (*p*) *mf* *p*

a - wa-ken to ser-vice, the lost hosts a - wa-ken,

the lost hosts a - wa - ken to

S. 2

lost hosts a - wa-ken,

a - wa-ken to ser-vice, to ser - vice, the lost hosts a - wa - ken to

26 *f* *p* *pp*

S. 1 ser - vice till, in moon less gloom each lap ses, mu ted, dim, mu ted, dim, mu ted, dim,

S. 2 ser - vice till, in moon less gloom each lap ses, mu ted, dim, mu ted, mu ted, dim,

f *p* *pp*

32 *ppp* *Senza misura* *f* *p*

S. 1 mm Raised when she has and sha-ken her thu - ri - ble

S. 2 mm Raised when she has and sha-ken her thu - ri - ble,

ppp *p* *f*

spoken, freely, without rhythm

spoken, freely, without rhythm

In tempo (♩ = ca. 144)**Senza misura**

S. 1 **35** **p** **sing** When she has and sha - ken her **f** 10 - 15" repeat this figure freely breathe freely thu - ri - ble,

S. 2 **p** **sing** When she has and sha - ken her **f** 10 - 15" repeat this figure freely breathe freely thu - ri - ble,

A tempo

S. 1 **38** **ff** *gliss.* Raised when she has and sha - ken her **f** 3 - 5" **pp** 3 - 5" thu - ri - ble.

S. 2 **ff** *gliss.* Raised when she has and sha - ken her **mf** 3 - 5" **p** 3 - 5" thu - ri - ble.

43 **Tempo I** (♩ = ca. 60) *mf*

S. 1 *p* *sfz* like a bell *sim.*

And long and loud, a star-knell tolls, tolls, tolls, tolls, tolls,

S. 2 *(p)* *f* *sfz* like a bell *sim.*

mm__ mm__ to night's nave up-soa-ring, tolls, tolls, tolls, tolls,

50 **Senza misura** **A tempo** *p*

S. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

a - o - a from the a - do - ring

spoken, freely, without rhythm

S. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *port.*

As the bleak in-cense sur-ges cloud on cloud, void - ward

55 **Slower** (♩ = ca. 52) *p* *whisper (spoken)*

S. 1 *p* *whisper (spoken)*

waste of souls, of souls, waste

S. 2 *p* *pp*

waste of souls, waste of souls, waste of souls, waste of souls,