

The Hollow Men

*For medium to low voice
with piano accompaniment*



by
Vanessa McClintock

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The Hollow Men

A song cycle by
Vanessa McClintock

Mistah Kurtz-he dead

A penny for the Old Guy

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DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF
DR. ROBERT KUZMINSKI

THE HOLLOW MEN is a
song cycle for medium to
low voice with piano
accompaniment based on
the set of poems of the
same title by
T.S. Eliot

Vanessa McClintock
October 2023

The Hollow Men

Evolution of the work.

This set of five poems is one of the works that propelled and cemented author T.S. Eliot into a position of great notoriety in the 20th century.

It has been the focus of great scrutiny and academic examination regarding its meaning and place in literature of the world.

In 1985 I selected this set of five poems for one of my compositions for my undergraduate music recital. I cannot now remember why.

Not aware of the copyright laws at the time, I set the entire set of poems to music before I and my music advisor thought to question possible copyright infringement. So (in the pre-World Wide Web era), I somehow managed to track down the estate of Mr. Eliot to inform them of my graduate project and ask for permission to have my work performed.

After a few weeks I received a reply. I was told first that I should have contacted the estate as it is very particular and guarded about the use of any of Mr. Eliot's works used in any medium or setting that might impinge upon the integrity of his art. However, because my project was set in an academic atmosphere, I was granted permission for the one-time performance.

The late Dr. Robert Kuzminsky (baritone), to whom the work is dedicated, sang the only performance of my music setting.

Noted music critic Alfred Kay reviewed my entire graduate recital for the Sacramento Bee—not a common event for a student concert. Of this work he wrote, "It is a mysterious, brooding, introspective piece of literature, and the composer captured some of these ingredients... with the talented piano accompaniment of Marian Philip, [it] emerged as an interesting if not astonishing interlude and one reasonably evocative if not deeply touching."

As with many of my earlier handwritten works that I recently have painstakingly entered into the digital realm of computer software, I have revised, tweaked, expanded, and enhanced each of the songs.

Because of the marvels of computer software and sample sounds, I can now hear all of my works, especially those that did not garner performances. Before this era, partly because of my limited ability at the piano, I could only hear my works in my head. I am very pleased to discover that what I had imagined and heard in my head decades ago was accurate. Now, however, after audibly hearing my music in real time, and with real sounds of real instruments and voices, I can edit and improve as did composers in the past when contemporary music was commonly and regularly performed.

So, although this version is very similar to the original, I have made several slight changes, alterations, enhancements, expansions, and trimming.

The Hollow Men was copyrighted in 1925 but is now (2023) in the public domain. Therefore, I can legally share my endeavors with the world. I have remained faithful to the original poems my Mr. Eliot but have embraced some minor repetitions of text for compositional purposes.

Approximate Performance Timings:

Part I: 2'15"

Part II: 2'59"

Part III: 2'22"

Part IV: 3'04"

Part V: 4'11"

TOTAL: 14'51"

Vanessa McClintock
October 2023

The Hollow Men

Text: T.S. Eliot

Part I

Vanessa McClintock

Mistah Kurtz—he dead

A penney for the Old Guy

for medium to low voice and piano accompaniment

4

7

Vocal

Piano

mp $\text{♩} = 120$

We are the hol - low men We are the stuf - fed men

mf *f*

Lean - ing to - ge - ther Head - piece filled with straw. A - las!

p $\text{♩} = 80$

Our dried voi - ces, when We whis - per to - ge - ther Are qui - et and mean - ing - less

12 *mp* As wind in dry grass As wind in dry grass — Or

15 *mp* rat's feet o - ver bro - ken glass In our dry cel - lar

18 *mf*

19 *mf* Shape with - out form,

20

shade

21

with - out col - - - our,

22

23

Pa - ra - lysed - force, *cresc.* Pa - ra - lysed force,

24

f

ges - - - ture with - out

25

mo - - - tion;

mp

27

mp

Those who have, those who have crossed With di -

30

rect eyes, to death's o - ther King - dom

33 *mp*

36 *mp*

39

42

Re - mem - ber Re - mem - ber

us— if at all, re - mem - ber, re - mem - ber

us— if at all— not as lost, re - mem - ber

45

cresc. *f*

us— if at all— not as lost

cresc. *f*

8va ————

48

mf *mf*

Vio - lent souls, but on - ly

52

As the hol - low men The stuf - fed men.

The Hollow Men

Text: T.S. Eliot

Part II

Vanessa McClintock

for medium to low voice and piano accompaniment

Vocal

Piano

pp legato

p

5

9

Eyes I dare not meet in dreams

In death's dream King - dom

The musical score is written for a medium to low voice and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time, with a tempo of 88 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal part with a whole rest and the piano part with a *pp legato* marking. The second system, starting at measure 5, includes the lyrics "Eyes I dare not meet in dreams" and features a *p* marking. The third system, starting at measure 9, includes the lyrics "In death's dream King - dom". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line, both featuring a *legato* style.

13

17

mp

These do not ap - pear: There, _____ the eyes _____ are

8va -----

mp

21

Sun - light on a bro - ken co - lumn _____

25

There, _____ is a tree swing - ing And voi - ces are In, _____ in the

8va -----

29

wind's sing - sing - ing in the wind

33

sing - - - ing More dis - tant and more

37

so - lemn than a fad - ing star.

41

45

49

53

56

Let me be no near - er

In death's dream

king - dom

58

60

63

65

mf

mf

f *mf*

f *mf*

Let me al - so wear Such de -

li - ber - ate dis - gui - ses

Rat's coat, crow - skin, crossed staves In a field

68 *mp*

Be - hav - ing as the wind

72

be - haves No near - er-

76

80

Not that fi - nal

83

meet - ing In the twi - light king - - -

86

dom

(8va)

Ped.

*

Detailed description: This block contains three systems of musical notation for measures 80 through 86. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 83 and back to 4/4 at measure 86. Measure 80 features a vocal line with a long note on 'fi' and a piano accompaniment with a rising melodic line. Measure 83 has a vocal line with a long note on 'king' and a piano accompaniment with a descending melodic line. Measure 86 includes a vocal line with a long note on 'dom' and a piano accompaniment with a descending melodic line. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and dynamic markings like 'Ped.' and '8va'.

The Hollow Men

Text: T.S. Eliot

Part III

Vanessa McClintock

for medium to low voice and piano accompaniment

♩ = 66 *mf*

Vocal

Piano *mf*

This is the dead land —

This is cac-tus land Here the stone i - ma - ges Are

5

raised, here they re - ceive The sup - pli - ca - tion

9

12

of a dead man's hand

16

Un - der the twin - kle of a fad - ing star. Is it like this In

19

death's oth - er king - dom Wak - ing a -

22

lone.

25

At the hour when we are trem - ling with ten - - -

der - ness Lips that would kiss At the hour when

27

30

we are trem - bling with ten - der - ness Lips that would kiss

33

Form prayers to bro ken stone.

36

The Hollow Men

Text: T.S. Eliot

Part IV

Vanessa McClintock

for medium to low voice and piano accompaniment

Vocal $\text{♩} = 72-76$ *mp*

The eyes are not here There are no eyes here

Piano *mp* (hold notes into chord) 5

3

In this val - ley of dy - ing stars In this hol - low

5

val - ley ____ This bro - ken jaw of our lost king - doms

mf *mp*

mp

9 In this last of

14 meet - ing pla - ces — In this last of meet - ing pla - ces —

19 We grope to - ge - ther —

mf

23 And a - void speech —

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a vocal and piano piece. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano accompaniment is characterized by a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass staves. The vocal line is written in a single staff with lyrics. The lyrics are: 'In this last of meet - ing pla - ces — In this last of meet - ing pla - ces — We grope to - ge - ther — And a - void speech —'. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp) for the first system and mezzo-forte (mf) for the second system. The measure numbers 9, 14, 19, and 23 are marked on the left side of the score.

27

mp

Gath - ered on this beach of the tu - mid

31

mp

ri - - - ver Gath - ered

36

on this beach of the tu - mid

41

ri - ver.

f
Sight - less,

46 *f* *mf* (hold notes into chord) *f*

mp
un - less

49 *mp*

The eyes re - ap - pear

51 *mp*

53

55

As the per - pe - tu - al star

58

Mu - ti - fo - li - ate — rose Of death's twi -

62

light king - dom The hope —

66

on - ly Of _____ emp - ty men, The

70

hope _____ on - ly Of _____

73

emp - ty men. _____

Red.

*

The Hollow Men

Text: T.S. Eliot

Part V

Vanessa McClintock

for medium to low voice and piano accompaniment

Vocal

Piano

mf with innocence

mf

4

6

♩. = 100-104

Here we — go round the prick - ly

pear Prick - ly pear — prick - - ly pear —

— Here we go round the prick - ly pear At

The musical score is written for a medium to low voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 3/8 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/8 time. The tempo is marked as 100-104 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked as mezzo-forte (mf) with innocence. The lyrics are: "Here we — go round the prick - ly". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 3/8 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/8 time. The lyrics are: "pear Prick - ly pear — prick - - ly pear —". The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 3/8 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/8 time. The lyrics are: "— Here we go round the prick - ly pear At".

$\text{♩} = 100-104$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$)

8

five o' clock in the morn -

10

ing.

13

Be - tween the i -

16

de - - a And the re - al - i -

19

ty Be - tween the mo - - - tion And the

22

act Falls the

25

Sha - - - dow For Thine is the

28

king - dom Be - tween the con -

$\text{♩} = 84$
($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$)

31

cep - - - tion And the cre - a - tion

34

Be - tween the e - mo - - - tion And the re -

37

sponse Falls the

40

Sha - - - dow Life is

Piu mosso (♩ = 112)

43

ver - - - y long

mp

46

Be - - - tween the

49

de - - - sire And the

52

spa - - - sm

55 Be - - - - -

58 tween the po - ten - cy And

61 the ex - ist - - - - - ence

64 Be-tween the es - - - - - sence And the

$\text{♩} = 56$

mf

mf

♩ = 84

67 des - - - cent Fals the

70 Sha - dow _____ For

73 Thine is the King - - - - -

76 - - dom _____ For Thine is Life _____

79

mp $\text{♩} = 88$

— is For Thine is the — This is the

82

way — the wor - - - ld —

84

ends — This is the

86

way the wor - ld ends

89

This is the way the wor - ld

92

ends

95

$\text{♩} = 72$

mf *p* *mp*

Not with a bang but a

98

whim - - - per.

mp

rit. $\text{♩} = 56$

101

p

Leo.

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 95-97) has a tempo of 72 beats per minute. The piano part features a complex texture with many beamed notes and a 'Leo.' (leaving) marking. The vocal line includes lyrics: 'Not with a bang but a'. The second system (measures 98-100) has a tempo of 56 beats per minute. The piano part features a complex texture with many beamed notes and a 'Leo.' (leaving) marking. The vocal line includes lyrics: 'whim - - - per.'. The third system (measures 101-103) has a tempo of 56 beats per minute. The piano part features a complex texture with many beamed notes and a 'Leo.' (leaving) marking. The vocal line includes lyrics: '101'.