

Song Cycle

Five Songs for
Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Music by Vanessa McClintock

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Music by Vanessa McClintock
Poems by John Haines and Bill Hotchkiss

If the Owl Calls Again
poem by John Haines

The Dawn

Voices of the Earth

Dregs

Wild Honey
poems by Bill Hotchkiss
abridged with permission by the poet by Vanessa McClintock

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Note to the performers:

These songs represent a cycle both musically and poetically: musical motifs from each song appear in others; the poems begin "At dusk" and flow through the night, the day, and return to the night.

The performers are encouraged to lend their own interpretation to the music, *ba non troppo*. I believe the poems and the music speak for themselves but do lend access to considerate stylization. However, the singer should strive *not* to sing in "opera-ese," but with diction more in the realm of popular or Broadway musical style.

Tempi are correct.

Vanessa McClintock

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If the Owl Calls Again

Poet: John Haines

Music: Vanessa McClintock

Andantino, grazioso
♩ = 66

1 *mf*

5 *mp*

9

At dusk from the is - land in the riv - er,
and it's not to cold, I'll wait for the

simile

moon to rise, then take wing and glide to meet him. —

13

Piu Mosso ♩ = 100

17

mp

We will not speak,

21

but hood - ed a - gainst the frost — so -

25

29

mf *dim.*

ar a - bove (ve) the al - der the al - der

mf *dim.*

33

mp

flats, search-ing

mp

37

(non-legato)

search-ing with taw - ny eyes search-ing with tawn - ny

mf

Tempo Primo ♩=66

mf

eyes. And then we'll sit

ritenuto rit. *mf*

ped ad lib.

41

(poco animato)

in _____ the sha - dow - y spruce _____ and pick the bones of care-less

45 *8va* *3* *3* *no ped*

Tempo rigore (♩ = 66)

mice, _____ whi - le the

49 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *ped ad lib.* *Reo.* *

long moon _____ drifts t'(o)wards _____ A - sia _____

53 *Reo.* *

and the ri-ver mut - ters - in its i - cy bed. _____

57 *mp poco cresc.* (*>*) *poco cresc.* *poco a poco accel.* *poco animato*

61

mf *mp*

a tempo

65

mp

And when morn-ing climbs the li - mbs we'll part with - out a

69

mf *mp*

Meno, languid, distant $\text{♩} = 60$

sound, _____ ful-filled, _____ float-ing home-ward as the cold world a -

73

wa - kens. _____

no ped

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The Dawn

Poet: Bill Hotchkiss

Music: Vanessa McClintock

With Reverence (♩ = 46)

1

(Use pedal only if unable to sustain notes without it, except where noted)

p poco a poco cresc. *mf*

mf Piu Mosso ♩=60

5

mp poco a poco cresc. *mf*

9

In the be - gin - ing — was the light, and the

man and the wo - man bath - ing To - ge - ther un - der the pale red fire of

13

p dawn As the mists *mf* ro - (o)se in threa - (e)ds of

16

smo - (o)ke *p* From the chill and cleans-ing wa - ters: And no one

20

mp knows from whence the light. *p* But

24

p *mf*

now the dawn of our e - man - ci - pa - tion Has be-gun:

Leo. *

28

p *mf*

See, the east is touched with fi - re.

Leo. *

32

p

poco

Leo. *

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Voices of the Earth

Poet: Bill Hotchkiss

Music: Vanessa McClintock

With energy ♩ = 116 - 126

p

poco

cresc.

f > *p*

pedal with phrase marks until voice enters

piu cresc.

(mf)

5

5

5

piu cresc.

5

f

mf

mf mid-ped.

f

(f)

*

11

Musical notation for measures 11-12. Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 11 has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 12 continues the melody with a slur. Bass clef has a sustained low note.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-14. Measure 13 has a melodic line with eighth notes and a triplet. Measure 14 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Bass clef has a sustained low note.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-16. Measure 15 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Measure 16 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Bass clef has a sustained low note. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-18. Measure 17 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Measure 18 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Bass clef has a sustained low note. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

19

Musical notation for measures 19-20. Measure 19 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Measure 20 has a melodic line with eighth notes. Bass clef has a sustained low note.

21

R.H. mid-ped. *

f

24

p *cresc.* *poco a poco cresc.*

(no trill on G#)

28

mf

32

35

poco a poco cresc.

38

42

46

48

mf

cresc.

mf

Down from the wild green Si - er - ra

Twist - ing through fif - teen miles And cor -

rod - ing a dark trenched can - yon

From the high and fir drenched rid - ges: _____ *cresc.*

(Ah) _____ Steep - hol - low _____ *f*

mf

50

53

56

59

ritenuto

Meno ♩ = 56 - 60

62

mp

The

64

stream has a rest - - ful

66

sound. _____

66

mf

Those who dug for the gold _____

68

mf

a tempo

68

are gone. _____ And the

70

rit.

a tempo

mp

70

72

wil-der-ness re-a-ches out a-gain As it al-ways

mf

rit.

75

mp

will.

mp
a tempo

mf

rit.
slow "trill" to next tempo

78

Poco Piu Mosso ♩ = 72

dim.

p

82 *mp*

Per - haps some of the

min - ers are still a - wake.

86

I,

89

p

I have not heard

92

95

their bones _____ mov - ing a -

98

bout for years, _____ for years. _____

101

Per -

mf

mf

p

mp

104

haps _____ some of the min - ers _____

107

_____ are still a - wake. _____ Their

110

bones _____ I _____ have _____ not heard for

113

years, for years.

Tempo Primo ♩=116-126

116

mf

119

mf *f*

So on - ly Steep - how - low,

122

on - ly the stream it - self Still works through the can - yon.

125

On - ly the stream cuts deep t(o)'ward the quick, _____ Mind-less, re - lent - less. And the

129

for - est _____ moves _____ slow - - - - ly. _____

rit.

132

(lunga) **ff** $\text{♩} = 56 - 60$ **mp**

And Yes! It will be soon, qui - et a -

mp (no ped)

ff

Tempo Primo $\text{♩} = 116 - 126$

gain.

137

accel.

accel. to a trill $\text{♩} (F_b)$

continue trill through bar 138

140

8vb

143

146

149

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Dregs

Poet: Bill Hotchkiss

Music: Vanessa McClintock

Note: *sos.* = *sostenuto* (middle) pedal

♩ = 60 *p* (distantly)

Sun - set, _____ sun - set. _____

mf pesante *legato*

sos. * *simile*

mf

Sun - set _____ crush - es down the sky

5 *sos.* * *simile*

sotto voce *p* *modo ordinario* *mf*

(My hea - ven - ly ma - ker of wine) _____ And as a dy - ing god, it _____

9 *p* *mf*

13

broods On all the splen - did crim - son

17

f

poco rit. **Piu Mosso** ♩ = 66 *mf*

21

poco rit. *mp* *mf*

I will not think of man,

25

I will not think of hor-ror or mad - ness of

28

hor - ror, or mad ness, nor

30

man. Scar - let

Tempo Primo ♩=60

34

Scar - let _____ The scar - let weight of

38

sotto voce

cloud (My hea - ven - ly ma - ker of

40

modo ordinario

wine) Wrings both _____ earth _____ and

dolce

sky _____ To mol - ten, _____ in - car - na - dine

p

dregs. _____ And be -

p

mf

gins the great for - get - ting. _____

p

56

p

attacca

8va

attacca

Song Cycle
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Wild Honey

Poet: Bill Hotchkiss

Music: Vanessa McClintock

With a sense of stillness
♩ = 66 (♩ is consistent) *mp*

The night _____ is star _____ still _____ And the

8va (until "loco")
p

mp

mys - ter - y _____ gleams _____ out _____ of _____ the sha - dows _____ Its in - ti - ma - tion, _____

5

entreatingly

_____ its in - no - cence. _____ Death, said the

9

loco

Red. * Red. *

13

night, is such a for - get - ting, — such qui - et O - bli - vi -

8^{va} (until "loco")

16

on, — and dark flames, Those i - ma - ges of bring - ing forth. —

loco

Red. *

20

Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. *

mf

The world is

rall. *a tempo*

24

mf

Lev. *

souled, said — the night,

27

With in - ner sha - dows, flushed In - to flesh form and

29

31

fruit Wi - ld bees have spun.

33

Your breath is the hon - (n)ey Of

35

wi - ld bees your breath is hon - (n)ey.

rit.

a tempo

rit.

♩ = 100 Più Mosso
poco agitato

38

mp *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

42

f

45

f

Out of man - za - ni - ta cha - os

47 *mp* ti - ny flow - er, White wax - en bud, re - sound - ing *poco accel.*

50 *mp* Pulse that springs cre - a - tion And o - pens to the *rallentando* *rit.* *rit.*

Meno ♩ = 66 *mp* stars. I am

53 *p* *legato*

58

cresc.

stung with in - tol - er - a - ble sweet -

cresc.

4

62

$\text{♩} = 100$ Più Mosso

mf

(t) - ness.

mf

3

65

mf Meno $\text{♩} = 66$

Man and wo - man — draw to - ge - ther, Strive to

69 *mf*

touch the ut - most quick— And the night says, the night says, Live. *mp dolce a tempo*

72 *mf* *mp*

76 *rallentando* *dim.* *p*