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Two Spender Songs

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for
Steve Bobst

Two Spender Songs

poems: Stephen Spender

Two Armies

Randall Snyder
1990

-Part One-

Brutal $\bullet = 72$

Baritone

Piano

ff *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf*

5

p

Deep as the

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

10

mf *mp*

win - ter plain two ar - mies

pp *mp*

p *mf*

14 *mf* dig their ma - chi - ner - y to de -

17 *ff* stroy each o-ther

21 *mf* men freeze *p* and hun - ger *mf* no one is gi - ven leave on ei - ther

25 side ex - cept the dead and wound - ed

29

p
ex-cept the dead and wound-ed

mp
p

33 Slower ♩ = 63

these have their leave while new bat -

mp *p* *mp*

37

tal - ions wait on time at last to bring them vi - o - lent peace

p *mp* *f*

rit.....

40

A Tempo 1 ♩ = 72

all have be - come so

mf *ff* *f* *mf*

43 *p* *mp* *f*

ner - vous and so cold that each man hates the cause

45 *p* *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

and dis - tant words that brought him here more

48 *accel.....* A Tempo 1

ter - ri - bly that bul - lets

52 *mf* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Once a boy hummed a pop - u - lar march - ing song

56

once a no-vice hand flapped their sa-lute

fp mp

59

the voice was choked the up raised

p mf

62

fist fell shot through the wrist by those of his own side

f mp

65

from their numb har-vest all would flee

ff mf

68

ex-cept for dis-ci-pline drilled in an i-ron school which holds them at the

p *mf* *f*

71

point of the re - vol - ver

ff *ff* *p*

74

yet when they sleep the i-ma-ges of

mp

77

home ride wish - ing hor - ses of es - cape which herd the

mp *pp* *p*

80 *rit.....* A Tempo 1

plain in a mass un - spo - ken po-em

84

fi - nal-ly they cease to hate for al-though

89

hate bursts from the air and whips the earth with ha - 3 - it

92

or shoots it up in foun-tains to mar - vel at

95

and al - though hun - dreds fall who

ff

ff

8vb

97

can con - nect the in - ex - haus - ti - ble an - ger of the

mf

mf

3 6 9

8vb

ff

99

guns with the dumb pa - tience of these an -

f

mf

ff

3 6

8vb

102

Marcato

mf

ff

3

8vb

8vb

106

Musical score for measures 106-108. The piece is in 6/8 time. Measure 106 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line. Measure 107 includes the instruction *molto rit.....*. Measure 108 has a dynamic marking of *fff* followed by *f*. A fermata is placed over the final note of measure 108. A double bar line with a repeat sign is at the end of the system.

109

Musical score for measures 109-110. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 109 has a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 110 includes the instruction *rit.....* and a fermata. A double bar line with a repeat sign is at the end of the system.

-Part Two-

Veiled ♩ = 66

111

Musical score for measures 111-114. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 111 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The lyrics are: "Clean si - lence drops at night when a lit - tle". The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. A double bar line is at the end of the system.

115

Musical score for measures 115-118. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 115 has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The lyrics are: "walk di - vides the sleep - ing ar - mies each". The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in measure 115 and a crescendo leading to a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 118. A double bar line is at the end of the system.

117

speak

3

3

hudd- led in lin - en wo- ven by re- mote hands

119

A Tempo

p

3

rit..... when the ma- chines are

122

pp

3

mp

stilled a com - mon suf - fer - ing whi - tens the

124

3

3

air with breath and makes both one

126 5 3 3 ♩ = 63 accel.....

as though these en - e - mies slept in each o - thers arms

129 A Tempo mp mf

on - ly the lu - cid friend to aer - i - al

133

rai - ders the bril - liant pi - lot moon stares down u - pon this plain

137 3 3 3 3 3 5

she makes a shin - ing bone cut by the shadows of ma - ny thou - sand bones

137 *p* where am-ber clouds scat-ter on

138 *pp* *p*

139 *p*

140 *p*

141 *p*

142 *p*

143 *pp* No-Man's-Land She re-gards death and time throw up the fur-i-ous

144 *pp* *p*

145 *p*

146 *p*

147 *mf* *p* words and min-er-als that de-destroy

148 *mf* *p*

149 *mp* *p*

150 *ppp*

Polar Exploration

Pour n'être pas changés en bêtes, ils s'enivrent
D'espace et de lumière et de cieux embrasés;
La glace qui les mord, les soleils qui les cuivrent,
Effacent lentment la marque des baisers.

Baudelaire

Crystalline ♩ = 60

Speak freely

A Tempo

151

Our sin-gle pur-pose was to walk through snow

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

Measures 151-153: The score features a piano accompaniment with a 2/4 time signature. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides harmonic support. The melody is in the right hand. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*). There are triplets and accents throughout.

154

Measures 154-155: The piano accompaniment continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *f*, and *pp*. There are triplets and slurs.

156

As clerks in whitebanks with bird-claw pens leave

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

Measures 156-158: The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *mf*. There are triplets and slurs.

159

tracks col-umned on pa-per to

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

Measures 159-161: The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *f*, *pp*, *f*, and *mf*. There are triplets and slurs. The tempo marking "A Tempo" is present.

161

f *mf* *p*

snow we add - ed foot - prints

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

164

accel..... *A Tempo* *p*

soon to - tal white - ness drowned all sense of space

mp *mf*

167

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

172

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

(*8va*) We trudged through stat - ic glar - ing days times

175

sus - pend - ded days that was in spring and au-tumn

pp

178

warmly
mp

Sum-mer struck wa - ter o - ver rocks

f
p

181

Faster $\text{♩} = 72$

excitedly

and half our world be-came a ship with a deep keel near

f
mf
pp
mf

184

boom-ing floes and ice-bergs run a-cross by lit-tle birds

mf
f
mf
f
8va

187

mf \langle *f* *p*

twit-ter-ing snow - bun - ting Green - land wheat-ear *8va-*

p \langle *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

189

whisper *pp* *mf*

red - throat - ed di - vers i - ma - gine but - ter - flies su -

p \langle *f* *pp* *mf*

192

f

(l) - phur - ous cloud - ed yel - low

f

194

8va- *f* *8va-*

bur-nish of bees that suck from sax - i - frage

p \langle *f* *mf* *p*

A Tempo 1 ♩ = 60

198

202 weary mp

there fol-lowed win-ter in a fro - zen hut warm e-nough at the ker-nal

206

but should you sleep with head a - gainst the wall ice glued my hair

Senza Misura melodramatic

209

Hate Cuver's loud breathing despise Freeman's fidget for washing

210

love only the dogs that winefor scraps and scratch

211

notice how they run better on short journeys with a bitch in that, different from us

Dream Sequence ♩ = 52

212

re - turn re - turn you warn I

A Tempo ♩ = 52

214

accel..... there is your city

217 *p* *f* *mf*

rail - ways mon - ey words words words banks ban - quets

218 *with growing urgency* *f*

news - pa - pers de - bates ci - ne - ma ra - di - o

219 *shout* *ff* *A Tempo* ♩ = 52 *p*

the worst is marr-iage! I can - not sleep

221 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

at night I hear a voice... speak through white rifts

223

was ice your ang - er trans - formed? the raw the mo - tion - less skies

A Tempo 1 ♩ = 60

225

were these the spir - it's hun - ger?

228

accel..... A Tempo

the un - end - ing hyp - not - ic

230

mf p accel..... A Tempo rit..... mp

march through snow the drop - ping

A Tempo

233

3 *f* *ff* *mf*

nights of pre-(e)-cious ex - tinc-tion were these on - ly the

mf *ff* *mf*

rit......

236

A Tempo

rit......

A Tempo

3 3 *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

will's e - va - sion? is the North, over there, a palpable real madness

mp *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

241

p recitative

pp

a glittering folly and without towns on - ly with birds and bears and fish a cy-clops eye

ppp

244

mp

p

3 3 a new and sing - u - lar sex?

mp *p*