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Birdsong

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for
Peggy Holloway

Birdsong

poems: Marjorie Saiser

Cardinal

Randall Snyder
1993

1 Quiet $\text{♩} = 120$ rit.....

Soprano

Piano

pp

4

f *mf* *pp* *p*

rit..... A Tempo

7

rit..... A Tempo *pp* 3

I call

8va 15ma

3

10 *mp* *pp*
car-di-nals in Feb - ru - ar - y

13 *mp* *p* *accel.* *mp* *rit.....*
as my fa - ther did whis - t - ling two

16 *sub mf* *p* *pp*
notes you me you me

18 *Freely* *mf* *f* *p*
the car-di-nal does not an - swer kee - ping his voice in a tight red shape in the

19 Slower $\text{♩} = 116$

oak in the weight of his bo - dy in the

mf *p*

mf *p*

p *mf* *p*

line of his tail the hard or - ange shell of his

mf *p*

mf

beak the black map a - round his eye

f *mf* *p*

f *mf* *p*

Sva *Sva*

the sky a - bove the trees is qui - et as though the voice of the car - di - nal

p *mf* *sub p* *mf*

29 *p* *mf* *p*

my fa - ther's voice

32 *p* *mf*

hav - ing left the bran - ches of the oak beats its wings out of

34 *rit.....*

ear - shot

f *p*

pp

Hawk

36 Precipitous $\text{♩} = 92$

Musical score for measures 36-38. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 36 features a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 37 continues with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 38 includes a trill (*tr*) and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano part consists of a complex rhythmic accompaniment with many accidentals.

39

Musical score for measures 39-41. Measure 39 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 40 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 41 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The piano part continues with a complex rhythmic accompaniment.

42

Musical score for measures 42-45. Measure 42 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 43 features a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 44 features a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 45 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano part continues with a complex rhythmic accompaniment.

Hold the rab-bit her bo - dy leap-ing though you hold her

46

Musical score for measures 46-48. Measure 46 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 47 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 48 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piano part continues with a complex rhythmic accompaniment.

her bo - dy kick-ing in your claws

49

as if she were yet leap - ing a - cross snow

52

her thin bones gi - ving in

55

her last small snap

rit..... A Tempo

59

fp *f*

62 *mf* *p* *f*

To-night face in - to wind turn to it wing run - ning

65 *mf* *fp* *f*

clean like wa - ter o - ver the tal - ons o - ver

68 *fp* *ff*

shoul - ders and beak

70 *mf*

wind from where - e - ver it comes

73 *fp* *f* *p* *f* *p*

co mb co (m)-bing the

f *mf* *f*

76 *f* *rit.....* *p* *mf* *f*

Faster ♩ = 112

fea - thers touch ing them

79 *p* *pp*

p *pp*

Loon

82 Flowing ♩ = 84

Musical score for measures 82-83. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 82 is in 4/4 time, and measure 83 is in 3/4 time. The music features a piano (*p*) accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a melodic line in the treble. A dynamic hairpin is visible at the end of the system.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The system consists of three staves. Measure 84 is in 2/4 time, measure 85 is in 4/4 time, and measure 86 is in 4/4 time. The music features a piano (*p*) accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a melodic line in the treble. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is indicated in measure 85, and a piano (*p*) dynamic is indicated in measure 86. Dynamic hairpins are used throughout the system.

87

Musical score for measures 87-88. The system consists of three staves. Measure 87 is in 2/4 time, and measure 88 is in 4/4 time. The music features a piano (*p*) accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a melodic line in the treble. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is indicated in measure 88. Dynamic hairpins are used throughout the system.

89

Musical score for measures 89-90. The system consists of three staves. Measure 89 is in 5/4 time, and measure 90 is in 4/4 time. The music features a piano (*p*) accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a melodic line in the treble. A pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic is indicated in measure 90, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is indicated in measure 90. Dynamic hairpins are used throughout the system.

91 *p*

Cra - zy faith - ful

93 *mp* *mf*

bird try - ing to map the lake in her

95 *p* *mf*

life - time to sing to it at night and in the

97 *p* *mf*

morn - ings when the trees are drip - ping

99 *mf* 3

on - to the wet grass

102 *p* < mf

to sing to it at the

105

times when it is not e - ven list - en - ing when it is in -

107 *p*

tent on some larg - er bus - iness

110

Musical score for measures 110-112. The score is in G major (one sharp) and features a complex, multi-measure rest for the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and then to 3/4. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

113

Musical score for measures 113-115. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and then to 4/4. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. A *mp* dynamic is indicated below the piano part in measure 115.

116

Musical score for measures 116-117. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "The loon di - ving un - der the moon - shine on the". The piano accompaniment features triplets in the right hand. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mf*.

118

Musical score for measures 118-120. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "sur - face not say - ing love swim - ming to the far". The piano accompaniment continues with triplets and a melodic line. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, and *p*.

121

side or to a spot in the mid - dle

123

com - ing up to call toward the

125

moon be - hind clouds to call her cry

128

quiv-er-ing re - turn - ing Sing

131

ing to the moon and the

f *mf* *f*

133

lake as if to join them the

mf

135

sky so deep the loon's song

p *mf*

138

falls in - to it is brought back to

p *dim.poco a poco*

141

rat - tle in the space a - bove the trees the

Musical score for measures 141-143. The vocal line features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 142. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a more melodic line in the treble.

144

lap - ping of the wa - ter

Musical score for measures 144-146. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 144. The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *pp* is present at the end of the system.

147

Slower

mp *f* *p*

Musical score for measures 147-149. The tempo is marked 'Slower'. The piano part features a 3/4 time signature in measure 147, which changes to 2/4 in measure 148. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, and *p*.

Snow Geese

150 Elegaic ♩ = 69

Musical score for measures 150-153. The piano part includes dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, and *f*, and a *rit.* instruction. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.

154 Slower ♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 154-156. The tempo is marked 'Slower' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 60. The piano part includes a *<mf>* marking. The key signature changes to two flats (Bb, Eb) and the time signature is 3/4.

157

Musical score for measures 157-159. It includes the vocal line with lyrics "A wo-man comes at mid - night". The piano part includes dynamic markings of *pp*, *mp*, and *mf*, and a *<mf>* marking. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4.

160

Musical score for measures 160-162. It includes the vocal line with lyrics "to close the win - dow in the dark kit - chen". The piano part includes dynamic markings of *pp* and *mp*, and a *<pp>* marking. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

162

mp

her feet on the cool boards

p *mf* *p*

ii

165

p *f*

the voi - ces of the snow - geese

mf *p* *f* *tr*

168

mf *rit.....*

come in - to her house from the anci - ent dark

mf *p*

Sub

170 Faster ♩ = 92

p

Sub

ii

173 *p espr.*

Snow

176 *mf mp p*

geese

179 *f p*

hear you

182 *Faster* ♩ = 110

tr

Freely ♩ = 80

185 *mf* *f* *mf*

I think you must be a pow - er - ful wo - man swim - ming at night a - bove the

186 *mf* *f* Tempo 1 ♩ = 69

ci - ties your bo - dy e - ther - i - al

188 Faster ♩ = 80 *p*

on - ly the

191 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

v of your arms ta - king a shape

Slower ♩ = 69

194

you leave warmth and numb - ing sleep

197

Slower ♩ = 60
pp

to speak O pale egg on the tun - dra grass - es

200

mf *sub p* *molto rit*

O snail a - sleep in the sands of the ri - ver