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Voyages Through The Inland Sea

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for
Donna Harler-Smith
and
Wes Reist

Voyages Through The Inland Sea

poems: Ted Kooser

Randall Snyder

1977 revised 2006

Prelude

Soprano
ah ee oh lah lee

Clarinet in Bb
fp mf > fp ppp f pp mp

4 *a tempo*
dah 3 dee 3 lah

6 *mf accel.....*
du ah dee ah lee ah lu dee ah lah ee ah

9 *mf >*
lee 3 du ah lee ee dee ee ah

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Postcards 1

♩. = 66

13

Hel - lo Han-na

18

How are you get-ting long Al vah is

22

com ing o - ver to - day with a bag of ap-ples I

27

wish you were here now good-bye.

30

Dear Vel - ma hope you are

34
hav - ing a fine time en - joy life

38
while you can for when you get old you can't

43
hap - py new year to you from - grand pa

48

52
I wish you girls had been o - ver to hear the

56

55

sing - ing this eve - ning it sure was dan - dy

ff > *p* < *f* *mf* *p*

59

but I sup - pose you do not care to come to

fp 3 5:4

63

Ben - nett at night a -

ff *subpp* *f*

68

gain

p

♩ = 112

In The Laundromat

69 *mp* *p*

Our lives are brief as dimes

ff mp f > p mf p pp <

3

74

dit bit dit a wash

f p f

3 5 3

77 *mp* *f* *p rit.....*

of o - dors oh and a

p mf pp

3 7

a tempo

80 *mf* *mf* *p*

rinse ss ss of fal - ling lea - ves

ff mf < f mp pp

3 3

6

♩. = 66

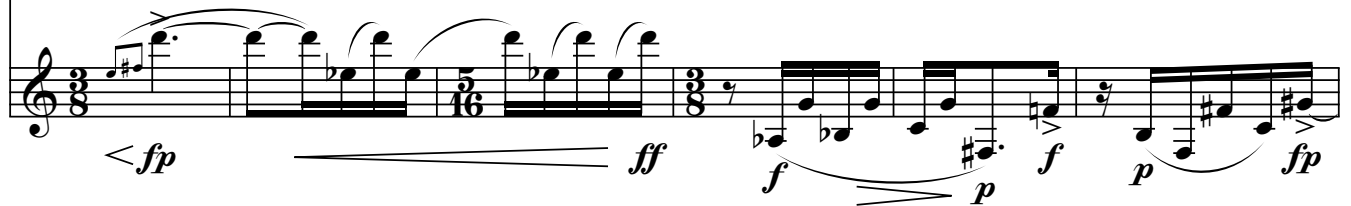
Postcards 2

84

5:3



This pic-ture is of the



90

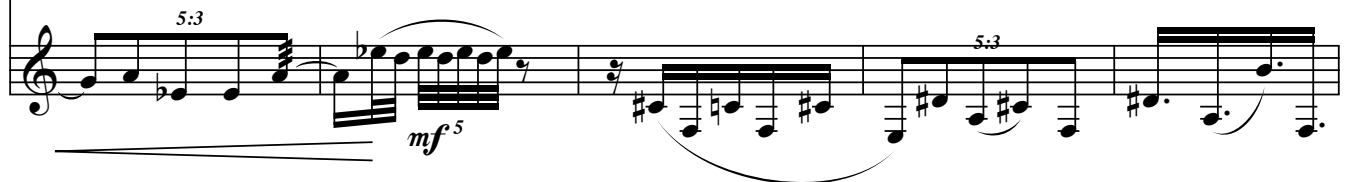
4:3

3



hog-house here

we have been hav ing a rain this mor ning and fore-noon



95

3

3

4:3

3



but I guess it is a-bout o-ver now and din-ner will soon be rea-dy



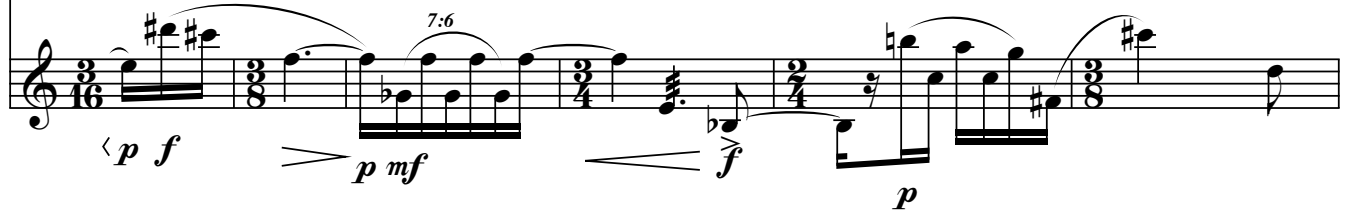
100

3



Yes-ter-day

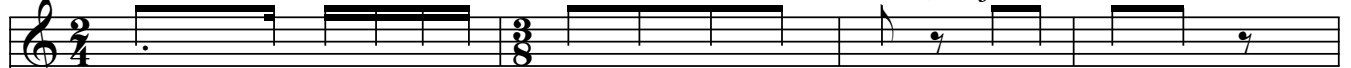
there was a



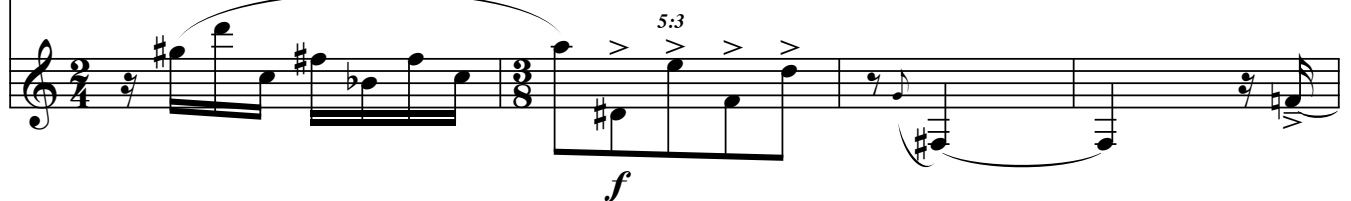
106

4:3

3



man sup-posed to be a pa-tient here found dead in the hog-yard



110

had hung him-self wirh a wire_ a- bout Thurs day

p *mf* *> p* *ff* 5

114

I got my hair cut this fore - noon and - day a-ter tomor-row is shave day but

fp *mf*

119

I won't get shaved un - til next Thurs - day

p *f* 7:6

125

once in two weeks is all I get

ff *fp*

Cadenza

129

fff *ff* 5

131

ffff *subpp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp*

Cherry County, Nebraska

138 ♩ = 60

Macabre

144 *p* *pp* *p*

Eight crows by the road eat-ing a dog Their wings wash

147 *> mf* *mf*

up in _____ the wind _____ like sur-geon's

151 *p* *f* *ff*

hands ha _____ their beaks

153 *mf* *fff* shout *p*

bee 3 - - - LOOK DIR-TY! to the

156 *Segue*

dri-vers too far off to see

mf *pp* *p*

Field Studies

161 *Child-like* *mf*

co-yo-te is white and gray - he runs a - way Owl

mf *p* *f* *pp*

$\text{♩} = 52$

165 *p*

is brown and black he cir-cles back Mouse mouse is the color

p *mf* *pp*

168 *stage whisper*

of a stare he is not there

10

♩. = 66

Postcards 3

170

p *fp* *ff*

175

The crows are get ting my tur - key eggs so bad I don't be - lieve I will

p

179

have an - y to sell Lah _____ ah _____ I hope you

f

184

find some last I heard of

mf *fp* *ff* *p*

189

you were at some church oh yes in Par is

f *pp* *f* *p*

7:6

194

f *pp*
ah

7:6 *f* *pp*

200

Slower accel..... a tempo

won der where you are now

f *pp* *mp* *f*

205

Hav - en't time for a let - ter but will write a few lines an - y - way Say would you

p *mf* *pp*

209

cop - y off that Ar - kan - sas song that Cloud used to sing up at the

fp *f* *mf* *pp*

213

hos - pi - tal and played on that gui - tar

f *p* *ff*

216

we have a lit-tle South ern nurse here from Ar-kan-saw and I want to

p *fp*

220

tease her with it la da yah

f *pp* Segue

Arkansas Song (interpolation)

224

$\text{♩} = 60$ Jazz scat-singing

dit dah la bit doo vot deh

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

230

dit dit dit dit dit dit dit la

f *p* *mf*

235 *f* *mf*

ah kah

f *p* *mf*

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

roo — koo — too — too — teh — voo dit deh ah — teh ah bit

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

Slower accel..... a tempo

242 *f* *p* *fp*

tah — kit tah — teh — key — pah

f *p* *fp*

246 *ff* operatic

ah — oh — ee

ff

250 *fff*

oo doo wee dit vee dot dit bit dot

fff

The Very Old

254 *p* *Plaintive* *mf* *pp*

p *mf* *pp*

vib *non vib*

261 *fp* *mf* *p* *mf* *ppp* *f* *mp*

fp *mf* *p* *mf* *ppp* *f* *mp*

gin - (g) ga ah nah ah sah ah

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

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

meh ah The ver-y old are for-e-ver

271

hurt-ing them selves burn-ing their fin-gers on skil-lets fall-ing loose-ly as

> p *ppp* *mp* *p*

273

trees and break-ing their hips with muff-led ex-plo-sions of bone

mf

275

Down the block they are wheel-ed in and out of our sight for years at a time

p *pp*

278

to make con-ver-sa-tion the neigh-bors ask if they are still a-

p *mf* *> p*

280

live Then ear-ly one morn-ing through our kit-chen win

pp *mp* *p*

282

dows we see them a - gain first one and then a -

mp *p*

284

no - ther out in their gar - dens on crutch - es and canes per - en - ni - al

f

rit......

286

check - ing their gaug - es for rain

sub ppp