

Jim Neat - Five Poems

Mary Oliver

Music by Judith Bailey

Queenie and I Strike a Deal, London 1904

First there was Fred the Recluse then Victor, who died, followed by five prim girls,

p SLOW

Ped

each one primmer than the one before.

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of music. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'SLOW' and the dynamics are 'p'. A 'Ped' (pedal) bracket spans the first two measures. The lyrics 'each one primmer than the one before.' are written below the notes.

p Rit----- *pp* (Rpt ad lib)

Ped

What a dive our house must have been till Queenie arrived

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of music. It continues the grand staff from the previous block. The dynamics are 'p' and 'pp'. A 'Rit' (ritardando) marking is shown with a dashed line. A 'Ped' (pedal) bracket spans the last two measures. The lyrics 'What a dive our house must have been till Queenie arrived' are written below the notes. The phrase '(Rpt ad lib)' is written at the end of the line.

Waltz *p* (Rpt ad lib)

pretty as a picture and belle of the ball.

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of music. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Waltz' and the dynamics are 'p'. The lyrics 'pretty as a picture and belle of the ball.' are written below the notes. The phrase '(Rpt ad lib)' is written at the end of the line.

(Rpt ad lib)

Then me, all crippled and congested, operated on year after year with insufficient chloroform,

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth line of music. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Then me, all crippled and congested, operated on year after year with insufficient chloroform,' are written below the notes. The phrase '(Rpt ad lib)' is written at the end of the line.

mf SLOWER Rit e dim-----

Detailed description: This block contains the fifth line of music. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The dynamics are 'mf' and the tempo is marked 'SLOWER'. A 'Rit e dim' (ritardando e diminuendo) marking is shown with a dashed line. The lyrics 'Then me, all crippled and congested, operated on year after year with insufficient chloroform,' are written below the notes.

our Mam so scared she nearly died.

Musical notation for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'SLOW' and the dynamics 'p'. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano part with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A 'Rpt ad lib' marking is present with a long horizontal line indicating a repeat.

Queenie it was who cared for me most, promised to fight the bullies
amused by my surgical boot, who lay in wait to topple me -

Musical notation for the second system, featuring piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Waltz' and the dynamics 'p'. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano part with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A 'mf' marking is present, followed by a 'Rit' marking with a dashed line indicating a ritardando.

"so long" she said, "as you promise to keep my secrets every one - "

Musical notation for the third system, featuring piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'SLOW' and the dynamics 'p'. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano part with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A 'Dim' marking is present, followed by a 'Rit' marking with a dashed line indicating a ritardando.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring piano accompaniment. The notation includes a piano part with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The text 'and I do ..' is written to the right of the piano part.

Musical notation for the fifth system, featuring piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Very slow' and the dynamics 'pp'. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano part with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A 'Rit' marking is present with a dashed line indicating a ritardando.

Play to Win, London 1916

INTRO. ♩ = 60

Musical notation for the introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *f* is present.

Ped
 Fred refused to come down from the attic. "Stay up here little brother,
 with me," he'd say, "Learn the savage art of bare-knuckle boxing

Musical notation for the first vocal line, in 5/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction "quicker" are present.

like Bill Neat, The Bristol Butcher, our famous fighting grandfather."

Musical notation for the second vocal line, in common time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction "SLOW" are present. A "Dim e Rit" marking is also present.

He'd dust me up: "Come on Jim, defend yourself, Your Country needs you!

Musical notation for the third vocal line, in common time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction "March" are present. A "Rpt ad lib" instruction is followed by a long horizontal line.

Stay on the balls of your feet, spin ! spin !"

Musical notation for the fourth vocal line, in common time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. A "p" marking is also present. A "Ped" instruction is followed by a long horizontal line, and a final *f* dynamic marking is present.

Late into the night I practised my jab, my left hook and my footwork.

quick *mf*

Ped | _____ |

Our Mam in tears,

SLOW Rit *pp*

Ped | _____ |

We'd switch sometimes, to chess, "Come on Jim" he'd say, "it's all the same, play to win, fight to the end."

MARCH *mf*

31

accel e cresc Rit

36

SLOW *p*

Ped | _____ |

Imaginary Widow, December 1926, Lumber Camp, North Saskatchewan

♩ = c 80

f *mf* Rpt. *p* - slow down ---

Electro-chainsaws arrived last week from Germany. "The job'll be kids' stuff now" boss said

♩ = 80

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

That was a lie. A man was killed the first day -

SLOW *mf* Dim e Rit ----- Ped

a dead branch fell out of the tree he was ripping into.

mf poco accel Rit e dim Ped

Widowmakers they're called.

SLOW *mf* *pp* Dim e rit ----- Ped

How I long for the woman who'll be widowed if one falls on me.

$\text{♩} = 80$

SLOW *p*

poco accel ----- *poco rit.....* *e dim*

The first system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The tempo is marked 'SLOW' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamics start at *p* (piano) and include markings for *poco accel* (poco accelerando), *poco rit.....* (poco ritardando), and *e dim* (e diminuendo). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

piu mosso

mf

Rit e dim

The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. The tempo is marked *piu mosso* (piu mosso) and the dynamics start at *mf* (mezzo-forte). The marking *Rit e dim* (ritardando e diminuendo) is present. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Undressing the dead, Vancouver 1929

Introduction:

Lento

p

Hold-----

Men of the jungle we sit in silence on the shore of Burrard Isle.
Too weak to protest -

mf

we just groan about the mess
Prime Minister Bennett has made
how we'd manage the affairs of state

CON MOTO

Repeat ad lib and fade

a bloody sight better if we had his millions, his private education -

p

Hold... We sit poking small fires, sharing stews
and narcotics to numb the pain.

I look round. These men have given up.
I have to get out..

f

I look round. These men have given up.
I have to get out..

Rpt ad lib and fade

Ped

But I need a coat. I root through a bundle of clothes on a trailer
It's solid...

Musical score for the first system. The piano part is in 4/4 time, starting with a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The tempo markings are *mf*, *con moto*, and *Rall*. The vocal line enters in the third measure with the lyrics "It's a man, already dead." The piano part ends with a *p* dynamic marking.

SLOW

Musical score for the second system. The piano part is in 4/4 time, featuring a slow, sustained melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The tempo marking is *SLOW*. The vocal line enters with the lyrics "I undress him." The piano part includes a *Hold* marking.

Postlude

Lento

Musical score for the third system. The piano part is in common time (C), featuring a slow, sustained melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The tempo marking is *Lento*. The piano part includes a *p* dynamic marking and a *mf* dynamic marking.

Musical score for the fourth system. The piano part is in common time (C), featuring a slow, sustained melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The piano part includes a *p* dynamic marking and a *mf* dynamic marking. The vocal line is silent, indicated by a long pause.

(long pause)

Ped _____

"Mary's Psalm"

INTRO

f Slow (quasi recit)

The man's hands freeze riding the rails,
The skin splits and his nails turn black.

Ped

p *Rall* *echo*

Ped

The boy leaps out of those hands,
falls to the ground, lopes off
And is lost to the night.

SLOW

mf *cresc e accel*

Rall e dim
8ve down *pp*

The man's Saskatchewan lover dies in a dust-storm,
their prairie daughter lost to locusts

Rpt. ad lib during verse and fade

mf

Years later the man's daughter in Cornwall
has left it too late to hold his hand.

Ped | Hold

her fingers over the laptop waver ----

Ped | Hold

The story told, she wonders
if the dead can read.

POSTLUDE ... free -- quasi recit e espressivo

Ped | *f* | Ped

f *mp* *slow* *p* *pp*

Ped | Ped | *p* *pp*