

SONG SET #2

by Scott Anthony Shell

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I. Fate

II. Mountains

III. This Is Just to Say

Approximate duration = 10 minutes

This piece was written for Gretchen Wells
in the Fall of 1990 and it is
dedicated to her.

The poems for Song Set #2 are used without permission.

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Text for Song Set #2

1. Fate (Susan Marr Spalding)

TWO SHALL BE BORN, the whole wide world apart,
And speak in different tongues and have no thought
Each of the other's being, and no heed;
And these, o'er unknown seas, to unknown lands
Shall cross, escaping wreck, defying death;
And all unconsciously shape every act
And bend each wandering step to this one end--
That one day out of darkness they shall meet
And read life's meaning in each other's eyes.

And two shall walk some narrow way of life
So nearly side by side that, should one turn
Ever so little space to left or right,
They needs must stand acknowledged, face to face;
And yet, with wistful eyes that never meet,
And groping hands that never clasp, and lips
Calling in vain to ears that never hear,
They seek each other all their weary days
And die unsatisfied--and this is Fate!

2. Mountains (Ted Hughes)

I am a fly if these are not stones,
If these are not stones, they are a finger-

Finger, shoulder, eye.
The air comes and goes over them as if attentively.

They were there yesterday and the world before yesterday,
Content with the inheritance,

Having no need to labour, only to possess the days,
Only to possess their power and their presence,

Smiling on the distance, their faces lit with the peace
Of the father's will and testament,

Wearing flowers in their hair, decorating their limbs
With the agony of love and the agony of fear and the agony of
death.

3. This Is Just to Say (William Carlos Williams)

I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox

and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast

Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold

I. Fate

poem by Susan Marr Spalding

$\downarrow = 152 \text{ mm}$

$\downarrow = 76 \text{ mm}$

2

② thought Each of the oth- er's be- ing, and no

②6 heed; And these, o'er

③1 un- known seas, to un- known lands shall cross,

③6 es cap- ing wreck, de- fy- ing death;

41 And all un-

46 con- scious- ly shape ev- ery act and

51 bend each wan- der- ing step to this one

56 end- (spoken) that one day out of dark-ness they shall meet

14

62

And read life's mean-ing in each oth-er's eyes.

mp. mf. mp.

68

ritard.

6 8

73

And two shall

6 A tempo
8 f.

mf.

ped. → ← ped.

78

walk some nar-row way of life so

83 near- ly side by side that, should one

88 turn ev-er so lit-tle space to left or

93 right, they needs must stand ac-know-ledged.

98 face to face, And

6

⑩ yet with wist- ful eyes that nev- er meet, and

6
8 mf.

⑩8 grop- ing hands that nev- er clasp, and

⑩3 lips cal- ling in vain to ears that

⑩8 nev- er hear, they seek each oth- er

(123) all their wear- y days and die

(123) un- sat-is-fied - and this is Fate!

6
4

6
4 mp.

off right before beat five.

II. Mountains

poem by Ted Hughes

(No break between songs)

4
4

4
4

$\downarrow = 76 \text{ mm}$

mp.

(sim.)

ped.

(5)

(sim.)

9 I am a fly if these are not stones,

13 If these are not stones, they are a

17 Fin-ger - Fin-ger, should-er,
a bit louder

ke bi ke bi ke bi ke bi (sim.)

21 eye. The air comes and goes o-ver them as if at-

(25) ten-tive-ly.

a bit softer
(original mp)

(sim.)

(29) They were there yes-ter-day and the world be-fore yes-ter-day,

(33) Con-tent with the in-her-i-tance, Hav-ing no

(37) need to la-bour, on-ly to pos-sess the

10

41 days, On-ly to pos-sess their pow-er

45 and their pre-sence, slight pause (9)
smi-ling on the

49 dis-tance, their fac-es lit 3/4 with the peace

53 of the fa-ther's will and test-a-ment,

57 $\text{♩} = 100 \text{ mm}$

ppp. (violently)

ped. ————— ped. —————

60

ped. —————

61 $\text{♩} = 76 \text{ mm}$

Wear- ing flowers in their hair, de-co- ra- ting their

mp.

ped. —————

62 limbs with the a-gon-y of love and the a-gon-y of fear and the a-gon-y

of

2
4

⑫ death.

Rit.

(spoken)

III. This is Just to Say

poem by
William Carlos Williams

This is JUST TO SAY

$\text{♩} = 100\text{mm}$

② 5/4 ff.

ped →
throughout (don't clear until end)

④ I have ea-ten the plums that were in the

4 mp.

⑦ ice- box and which you were pro-ba-bly sav-ing

⑩ for break-fast For -

⑬ give me they were de- li- cious

⑯ (spoken) so

(Singer Interpret)

⑰ sweet and so cold