

Abraham Newsom

Robert Fruehwirth

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The Week in Review

for baritone voice and piano

I Thin Place

II Dung Heap

III Death Jumps Around Me

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As I have said before, I usually do not read poetry, but these three poems were written by a friend of mine, so I read them and really liked them. They spoke to me because the friend was a monk in a monastery similar to mine. Some of the themes might sound morbid, but they really aren't they are just realistic. I asked him if I could set them to music, so here they are. The friend is no longer a monk: he is married and living in the United Kingdom. Things change. I do thank him for the bicycle trip across Wisconsin we took together while he was still a monk, and for the poems.

I also thank John Webber for typesetting all my manuscripts and making them available to the public. Thanks also to Caroline Webber for allowing me to give John so much work.

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St. Gregory's Abbey
Three Rivers, Michigan

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I. Lazy Dance ♩=86

♩=♩ (throughout this movement) Robert Fruehwirth

The first system of the musical score for 'I. Lazy Dance' consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the right hand and a bass clef staff for the left hand. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The piece begins in 3/4 time, marked *rubato*. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The tempo is indicated as ♩=86. The system concludes with a 4/4 time signature change.

The second system of the musical score continues from the first system. It begins with a measure number '5' above the treble staff. The right hand continues its melodic line, and the left hand provides accompaniment. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present. The system concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

The third system of the musical score includes a vocal line in the bass clef staff and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff. The vocal line begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: "The or-a-cle: The or-a-cle: 'You should work at Hos-pice!'". The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic accompaniment. The system concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

The fourth system of the musical score includes a vocal line in the bass clef staff and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff. The vocal line begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The lyrics are: "and both my friend And my mouth-piece self are stunned.". The piano accompaniment continues. The system concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

17 The or-a-cle: The or-a-cle:

21 and both my friend And my mouth-piece are — stunned.

declamato
mf

25 I re-trace my steps twelve years old A sum-mer spent with

mf

f

29 lung, — Bone, — brain, — (Dad's) can - cer.

f

33

mf *pp*

37

mf *pp*

41

The or-a-cle: The or-a-cle: 'You should work at Hos-pice.'

p

45

and both my friend And my mouth-piece self ___ are ___ stunned.

mf *declamato**poco a poco cresc*

I re-trace my steps twelve years old A sum-mer with (Dad's)

can - cer. A sum-mer spent spent with

can - cer. The or - a - cle: The or - a - cle: 'You should work at

Hos - pice! twelve years old I re-trace

65 *stunned* *lazy dance, rubato as at beginning*

69 *mf* *f*

73 *mf* *p* The or - a - cle: The or - a - cle: 'You should work at

77 *f* Hos - pice! and both my friend And my mouth-piece self ___ are ___

declamato

poco a poco cresc

81

stunned. I re-trace my steps twelve years old A sum-mer

poco a poco cresc

85

spent with lung, — Bone, brain, — (Dad's) can - cer.

poco a poco cresc

89

A sum-mer spent A sum-mer with (Dad's)

f

93

can - cer. The or - a - cle: The or - a - cle:

//

Hos - pice.' // 'Yes' my friend says,

97

p

'Yes' my friend says, Hos - pice is a Thin Place.

100

p

pp

II. Dung Heap ♩=88-92

mf hopeful, joyful

Down-town for a day Out-side Lib-ra-ries and a cof-fee

mf

shop And I stum - ble on a late re - hear - sal

5

pp

*growing spookier**p*

of Mes-si-aen's Ban-quete Cel-este, Down-town for a day

9

pp

poco a poco accel.

Down-town for a day And I stum-ble on a late re-hear-sal

13

poco agitato

And I stum-ble I stum-ble on Brood-ing or-gan punc-tu-at-ed by

17

agitato ♩=104-112

piz-zi-ca-to drops of blood

21

haunted
mp

25

brooding, haunted
mp

Down-town for a day Out-side Lib-ra-ries

and a cof - fee shop And I stum - ble on a late re -

29

hear-sal of Mes-si-aen's Ban-quete Cel - este, Down-town for a day

33

Down-town for a day And I stum-ble on a late re - hear-sal

38

poco a poco accel. e cresc.

42 And I stum-ble I stum-ble on Brood-ing or-gan punc-tu-at-ed by

46 piz - zi - ca - to drops of blood

f ♩ = 120-1126

50 Down - town drops of blood

p

54 blood I stum - ble

58 I stum - ble on drops of

62 blood drops of

f

66 blood drops of

p

poco a poco cresc

70 blood That lift an - oth - er

poco a poco cresc

(poco a poco cresc)

ci - ty's bone and dung heap — my clois - ter in - to the

73

(poco a poco cresc)

cen - ter — of this ci - ty's day.

77

f

drops of — blood

81

p

bone and — dung —

85

89

Down-town for a day Out - side Lib - ra - ries and a cof - fee

93

shop And I stum-ble on a late re - hear - sal of

98

Mes-si-aen's Ban-quete Cel - este, Down-town for a day And I stum-ble

tempo I (♩=88-92)
mf

mf *f*

III. Death Jumps Around Me ♩=132

resigned, sadly peaceful

mp

Her-met a - no-ma turn-ing

p

out a fraud. CAT scan clear As a June sky, I re -

7

turn to haul - ing rocks,

14

As a June sky, CAT scan clear to haul-ing rocks, I re -

21

turn

28

mf

The sod - den clay I

34

mf

dump a load pause sweat-ing as_ light sifts Through fog

39

rall.

and three days of roil - ing clouds.

44

mf

$\text{♩} = 60$

49

18
53

Through fog and three days of roil - ing clouds.

With bells, blad-der and cuck - old's hat Death jumps a

round me, jing-les his curved knife jing-les his curved knife

poco a poco cresc

77

like a neur - o sur - geon's flash - ing in the sun.

This system contains measures 77 through 81. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'rall.' (rallentando). The music consists of quarter and eighth notes.

82

rall. $\text{♩} = 60$

mf

This system contains measures 82 through 85. The tempo is marked 'rall.' with a metronome marking of 60. The dynamic is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

86

pp

This system contains measures 86 through 89. The dynamic is marked 'pp' (pianissimo). The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

90

$\text{♩} = 112$ *accel.*

mp *pp*

This system contains measures 90 through 95. The tempo is marked 'accel.' (accelerando) with a metronome marking of 112. The dynamic starts at 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and ends at 'pp' (pianissimo). The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

96

mp

Her - met a - no - ma turn - ing out a fraud. to haul - ing

This system contains measures 96 through 100. The dynamic is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

rocks, I re - turn

102

I dump a load pause sweat - ing

108

mp *pp*

as light sifts Through fog Death jumps a

113

mp *pp*

round me, Death jumps a round me.

118

mp *pp*

123

ppp

poco rall. al fine

128

pppp

Music by Abraham Newsom

300004 Missa Brevis	for chorus and orchestra
300008 Rumi	for chorus and orchestra
300011 Symphony of Psalms	for chorus and orchestra
300014 The Kiss	for baritone and string quartet
300015 Tuesday Afternoon	for chorus and string quartet
300017 Symphony C minor	for orchestra
300020 Symphony G minor	for orchestra
300023 Visible Dream	for baritone voice and piano
300024 The Week in Review	for baritone voice and piano
300025 The Hours	for tenor, baritone, and bass voices

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