

Three Auden Songs

for low voice and piano

Musée des Beaux Arts
Roman Wall Blues
Autumun Song

by
Andrew Wise

first performed January 2007
by Conor Biggs, bass-baritone, and Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin, piano
in the John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin

Musée des Beaux Arts

About suffering they were never wrong,
 The Old Masters: how well they understood
 Its human position; how it takes place
 While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along;
 How when the aged are reverently, passionately waiting
 For the miraculous birth, there always must be
 Children who did not specially want it to happen, skating
 On a pond at the edge of the wood:
 They never forgot
 That even the dreadful martyrdom must run its course
 Anyhow in a corner, some untidy spot
 Where the dogs go on with their doggy life and the torturer's horse
 Scratches its innocent behind on a tree.
 In Brueghel's Icarus, for instance: how everything turns away
 Quite leisurely from the disaster; the ploughman may
 Have heard the splash, the forsaken cry,
 But for him it was not an important failure; the sun shone
 As it had to on the white legs disappearing into the green
 Water; and the expensive delicate ship that must have seen
 Something amazing, a boy falling out of the sky,
 Had somewhere to get to and sailed calmly on.

Roman Wall Blues

Over the heather the wet wind blows,
 I've lice in my tunic and a cold in my nose.
 The rain comes pattering out of the sky,
 I'm a Wall soldier, I don't know why.

The mist creeps over the hard grey stone,
 My girl's in Tungria; I sleep alone.
 Aulus goes hanging around her place,
 I don't like his manners, I don't like his face.

Piso's a Christian, he worships a fish;
 There'd be no kissing if he had his wish.
 She gave me a ring but I diced it away;
 I want my girl and I want my pay.

When I'm a veteran with only one eye
 I shall do nothing but look at the sky.

Autumn Song

Now the leaves are falling fast,
 Nurse's flowers will not last,
 Nurses to their graves are gone,
 But the prams go rolling on.

Whispering neighbours left and right,
 Daunt us from our true delight,
 Able hands are forced to freeze
 Derelict on lonely knees.

Close behind us on our track,
 Dead in hundreds cry Alack,
 Arms raised stiffly to reprove
 In false attitudes of love.

Scrawny through a plundered wood,
 Trolls run scolding for their food,
 Owl and nightingale are dumb,
 And the angel will not come.

Clear, unscaleable, ahead
 Rise the Mountains of Instead,
 From whose cold cascading streams
 None may drink except in dreams.



Musée des Beaux Arts

poem by W.H. Auden

Agitato

music by Andrew Wise

www.wisenose.net

1 ♩ = 108

three auden songs for low voice

6

Musical notation for measures 6 and 7. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (sharps and flats). Measure 6 has a slur over the first two phrases. Measure 7 has a slur over the first two phrases and a fermata over the final chord.

7

Musical notation for measures 7 and 8. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Measure 7 has a slur over the first two phrases. Measure 8 has a slur over the first two phrases and a fermata over the final chord.

8

Musical notation for measures 8 and 9. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Measure 8 has a slur over the first two phrases. Measure 9 has a slur over the first two phrases and a fermata over the final chord.

9

Musical notation for measures 9 and 10. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Measure 9 has a slur over the first two phrases. Measure 10 has a slur over the first two phrases and a fermata over the final chord.

10

Musical notation for measures 10 and 11. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Measure 10 has a slur over the first two phrases. Measure 11 has a slur over the first two phrases and a fermata over the final chord.

11

Recitative *f*

A - bout suf - fe - ring they

ff

Musical notation for measure 11. The top staff is a vocal line in bass clef, starting with a fermata and then a recitative line with the lyrics "A - bout suf - fe - ring they". The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The piano part has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The piano part consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals.

ossia

Andante mesto

$\text{♩} = 88$ *p*

14

The Old Ma - sters:_____

_____ were ne - ver wrong, The Old Ma - sters:_____ how well they un - der - stood Its

pp

20

hu - man po - si - tion; how it takes place While some - one else is ea - ting or

25

o - pe - ning a win - dow_____ or just wal - king dul - ly a - long;

30

How,_____ when the a - ged are_____ re - ve - rent - ly,

p

35

pas-sio-nate-ly wai-ting, wai-ting, wai-ting For the mi-ra-cu-lous birth,

40

there al-ways must be Chil dren, there al-ways must be Chil dren who did not

45

spe-cial-ly want it to hap-pen, ska-ting, ska-ting On a

49

pond at the edge of the wood: They ne-ver for-got, They ne-ver for-

54

Allegro ♩ 80

got, They ne - ver for - got That

pp *f*

This system contains measures 54 through 58. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The piano part includes dynamic markings *pp* and *f*. The lyrics are: "got, They ne - ver for - got That".

59

e - ven the dread - ful, dread - ful mar - tyr - dom

This system contains measures 59 through 62. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The lyrics are: "e - ven the dread - ful, dread - ful mar - tyr - dom".

63

must run its course,

This system contains measures 63 through 66. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The lyrics are: "must run its course,". A slur is present over the vocal line.

67

must run its course

This system contains measures 67 through 70. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The lyrics are: "must run its course". A slur is present over the vocal line.

71

A - ny - how

ff *f*

76

in a cor - ner, some un - ti - dy spot

80

Where the dogs go on with their dog-gy life

mf

84

ossia

and the tor - tu - rer's horse

and the tor - tu - rer's horse

p *rfz*

87

3 3

Scra - tches its in - no - cent be - hind on a tree.

Andante lento

90 ♩ = 66

pp

mp

92

In Breu - ghel's I - ca - rus, _____ for in - stance:

94

how e - very - thing

8va

95

turns a - way quite lei - sure - ly

This system contains measures 95 and 96. It features a low voice line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are "turns a - way quite lei - sure - ly". The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

96

from the di - sas - ter;

8va

mp

This system contains measures 97 and 98. The lyrics are "from the di - sas - ter;". The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. A dashed line labeled *8va* indicates an octave transposition for the piano part.

98

the plough - man may Have heard the splash,

8va

This system contains measures 99 and 100. The lyrics are "the plough - man may Have heard the splash,". The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A dashed line labeled *8va* indicates an octave transposition for the piano part.

100

the for - sa - ken cry, But for him it was

8va

This system contains measures 101 and 102. The lyrics are "the for - sa - ken cry, But for him it was". The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *8va* is present. The piano part includes triplet markings over the final two measures.

102

not an im - por - tant fai - - lure;

Musical score for measure 102. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are "not an im - por - tant fai - - lure;". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

103

the sun shone

mp

Musical score for measure 103. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are "the sun shone". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

104

As it had to on the

Musical score for measure 104. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are "As it had to on the". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

105

white legs dis - ap -

mp

Musical score for measure 105. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are "white legs dis - ap -". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

106

pea - ring in - to the green Wa - - ter;

107

and the ex -

109

pen - sive de - li - cate ship that must have seen Some - thing a - ma - zing,

pp

Red.

112

a boy fal - ling,

pp

mp

Red.

115

fal - ling out of the sky,

118

Had some - where to get to and sailed calm -

122

- ly on.

125

8^{va}

128

The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, containing a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The second staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, containing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. The third staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, containing a melodic line with long notes and slurs. The fourth staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, containing a melodic line with long notes and slurs, starting with a measure marked '8vb'.

Roman Wall Blues

poem by W.H. Auden

Andrew Wise

1 $\text{♩} = 126$ **with swing**

Bass

Piano

f *sfz* *mp*

O - ver the hea - ther the

4
wet wind blows, I've lice in my tu - nic and a cold

7
in my nose. The rain comes pat - ter - ing out of the sky,

10
I'm a wall sol - dier, I don't know why.

cresc. *sfz* *f*

The musical score is written for Bass and Piano. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 126 beats per minute with a swing feel. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 4, 7, 10). The piano part features complex harmonic textures with frequent triplets and dynamic markings such as *f*, *sfz*, *mp*, and *cresc.*. The bass part provides a steady accompaniment with some melodic lines. The lyrics are: "O - ver the hea - ther the wet wind blows, I've lice in my tu - nic and a cold in my nose. The rain comes pat - ter - ing out of the sky, I'm a wall sol - dier, I don't know why."

13

The mist creeps o - ver the hard grey stone.

p

17

My girl's in Tun - gia, I sleep a -

pp

22

lone.

p

25

half spoken

Au - lus, Au - lus,

three auden songs for low voice

normal singing

29
A - ulus goes hang - ing a - round her place, I

32
don't like his man - ners and I don't like his face... Pi - - -

35
- so's a Chris - tian, he wor - ships a

38
fish. There'd be no kis - sing if he had his

42
wish. She gave me a ring but I diced it a - way, I want my girl,

46

I want my girl, I

49

want my girl,

51

and I want my pay.

54

When I'm a ve - - - teran

58

with on - ly one eye, I shall do

This system contains measures 58, 59, and 60. The vocal line is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 58 contains the lyrics "with on - ly one eye,". Measure 59 contains "I shall do". Measure 60 contains a fermata over the word "do". The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands.

61

no - thing but look at the sky.

pp

This system contains measures 61, 62, and 63. The vocal line is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. Measure 61 contains the lyrics "no - thing". Measure 62 contains "but look at the sky.". Measure 63 contains a fermata over the word "sky.". A triplet of eighth notes is marked above the vocal line in measure 62. The piano accompaniment includes a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking in measure 63. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Autumn Song

poem by W.H. Auden

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1 **Andante** ♩=120

Bass

Piano

p

with pedal

Now, _____ Now, _____

8

Now the leaves are fal - ling, fal - ling fast, _____

14

Nur - se's flo - wers _____ will not last, _____

20

Nur - ses to their graves, _____ to their graves are gone, _____

26

But the prams go rol - - -

mp

8th

32

- ling on.

pp

♩=126

40

Whis - per-ing neigh - bours left, left and right

pp

45

Daunt us from our true de - light,

pp

50

A - ble_ hands are forced_____ to

55 **rall.** **a tempo**

freeze_____ De - re - lict on_____ lone -

61

- - - - ly knees._____

68 **piu mosso** ♩=144

piu mosso ♩=144

72

Close behind us on our track, Dead in

76

hundreds cry A - lack,

cresc.

79

Arms raised stiff - ly to re - prove In false at - ti - tudes of

mf

83

love, false at - ti - tudes of love.

f

Red.

8^{va}

87 Allegro ♩=152

Scraw - ny, Scraw - ny through a plun - dered wood, Trolls run

mf

92

scol - ding for their food, Owl and nigh - tin - gale are

97

dumb, And the an - gel will not come.

cresc.

102

Largo ♩=72

8va

f

ff

Red.

Vol. 1

106

Clear, clear, un-scale-a-ble, a-head,

f *mf* *pp*

113

a-head Rise the moun-tains, the moun-tains of In-stead,

mp

120

tempo primo ♩=120

From whose cold cas-ca-ding

ppp

127

streams _____ None may drink ex - cept in dreams. _____

Musical score for measures 127-131. The vocal line (bass clef) features a melodic line with a slur over the first measure and a fermata over the final measure. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth-note chords and a left hand with eighth-note chords. The lyrics are: "streams _____ None may drink ex - cept in dreams. _____".

132

Musical score for measures 132-136. The vocal line (bass clef) features a melodic line with a slur over the first measure and a fermata over the final measure. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth-note chords and a left hand with eighth-note chords. The lyrics are: "streams _____ None may drink ex - cept in dreams. _____".