

Dwight Andrews

Three Baldwin Poems
for soprano and piano

dedicated to William Brown

Three Baldwin Poems for Soprano and Piano
dedicated to William Brown

Music by Dwight Andrews

Texts by James Baldwin

I

Lord, when you send the rain,
think about it, please, a little?
Do, not get carried away
by the sound of falling water,
the marvelous light on the falling water
I am beneath that water
It falls with great force
and the light
Blinds me to the light

II

The hardest thing of all
Is hearing silence fall-
Or, to see it, touch it,
Watch silence take a form
Watch silence proudly stride
Between connecting rooms
Hear silence ride
Between, you and others
And you,
Oh, brother say, I couldn't hear nobody pray

III

I started to leave
And couldn't go
For a Yes, or for a No.
Watch the silver track's turn black
As my lover's back
Stood there through the night
watched the black turn white
I started to leave
and couldn't go, for a Yes
or for a No.

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MOVEMENT I

$\text{♩} = 50 - 52$

Tenor

Lord, Lord, lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

Piano

T

Lord, When you send the rain — Think a-bout it please a lit tle

Pno.

a tempo

T

please... Lord please when you send the rain

Pno.

3

Three Baldwin Poems Movement I

9

T

8

think — a bout it please a lit tle please — please —

Pno.

9

11

T

8

Lord Please

Pno.

11

Glissando

B

13

T

8

Pno.

13

Three Baldwin Poems Movement I

14 *liquid*
T 8 oo Do not get car-ried a-way —

14 *8va* "water" texture
Pno. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

17
T 8 by the sounds of fal-ling wa-ter

17
Pno. 3 3 3

20
T 8 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, The mar-vel-ous light,

20
Pno.

Three Baldwin Poems Movement I

23
T
8 on the fal - ling wa - ter

23
Pno.

25
T
8 I am I am be I am be - neath that wa - ter

25
Pno.

28
T
8 Lord It falls with great force And the light and the light the

28
Pno.

Three Baldwin Poems Movement I

32
T 8 light blinds me to the light.

32
Pno. light blinds me to the light.

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MOVEMENT II

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Intro

94

Tenor

Piano

The

5

8

hard-est thing of all _____ is hear-ing si-lence fall _____

Pno.

5

9

8

fall _____

dim. (disappear)

Pno.

9

Three Baldwin Poems Movement II

T 12
8 or no to see it touch it watch si-lence take a form watch si-lence proud-ly

Pno. 12
8^{vb}

[Bill: silence will take a form here]

T 15
8 stride be - tween con - nect - ing rooms

Pno. 15
3 3 3 3 3 3

T 17
8

Pno. 17
3 3 3 3 3

Three Baldwin Poems Movement II

19
T 8 Hear si-lence ride be tween be - tween be -

Pno.

23
T 8 tween you and all o - thers you and you

Pno.

26
T 8 Oh bro-ther Oh bro-ther say: I could'-nt hear no-bo-dy pray

Pno.

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Movement III

$\text{♩} = 124$

"For a Yes, Or For A No"

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. The vocal line consists of four measures of whole rests. The piano accompaniment begins in the second measure with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand, marked with an accent and the word 'chord'. The bass line features a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The system concludes with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a half note in the bass line.

The second system begins with a measure rest in the vocal line, followed by the lyrics 'star-ted to leave and'. A box containing the letter 'A' is positioned above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with triplet patterns in both hands. The system ends with a double bar line.

The third system begins with a measure rest in the vocal line, followed by the lyrics 'I could nt go— for a yes or for a no I star-ted to leave and I could nt go'. The piano accompaniment continues with triplet patterns in both hands. The system ends with a double bar line.

12

for a yes for a yes or for a no I could nt go I would nt go

16

for a yes or for a no I went to leave I

20

could nt would nt could nt would nt Go for a yes or a

could nt would nt

B ♩ = 120

23

no!

26

Musical score for measures 26-28. The vocal line consists of three measures of whole rests. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. Triplet markings (3) are present in the piano accompaniment at measures 26 and 28.

29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Watch the sil - ver tracks turn". A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 30. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern and melody.

32

Musical score for measures 32-34. The vocal line includes the lyrics "black... black as my". A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 34. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern and melody.

35

Musical score for measures 35-37. The vocal line includes the lyrics "lov - vers back". A long slur covers the notes in measures 35 and 36. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern and melody. A triplet marking (3) is present in the piano accompaniment at measure 37.

38

Musical score for measures 38-40. The system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three measures of whole rests. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the bass line and chords in the treble line. Measures 39 and 40 contain triplets in the bass line.

41

Musical score for measures 41-43. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Stood there through the night" over a half note, followed by a whole rest in measure 42 and another whole rest in measure 43. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern and chords, including triplets in measures 42 and 43.

44

Musical score for measures 44-46. The vocal line has the lyrics "Watched the Watched the black turn white" spread across three measures. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern and chords, including triplets in measures 45 and 46.

47

Musical score for measures 47-49. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 47, followed by the lyrics "Watched the black turn" over a half note in measure 48 and a quarter note in measure 49. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern and chords, including a triplet in measure 49.

50

white

54

C

I star-ted to leave and I could nt go_ for a yes or

58

for a no I star-ted to leave and I could nt go for a yes for a yes or for a no

62

I could nt go I would nt go for a yes or for a no went to

66

I could nt would nt could nt would nt

could nt would nt

70

Go for a yes or a no!