

Center

soprano solo

Thomas DeLio

1999

Duration: approximately 8 minutes

Notation

Vocal sounds

r = roll r (voiced)



x = unvoiced s, sh, shu, ch, t, ts, ti or whispered words

c = speak into cupped hands

o = open (cancels cupped hands)

Non-vocal sounds



= all non-vocal sounds



= snap fingers



= maraca (one)



= tambourine



x - shake tambourine



x - single stroke (slap tambourine against thigh)

Use tambourine with skin. Never choke; always allow tambourine to decay naturally.



= triangle (low)

Hang triangle from music stand.

Three Poems from *Briefings* (1971)

A. R. Ammons

Center

A bird fills up the
streamside bush
with wasteful song,
capsizes waterfall,
mill run, and
superhighway
to
song's improvident
center
lost in the green
bush green
answering bush:
wind varies:
the noon sun casts
mesh refractions
on the stream's amber
botton
and nothing at all gets,
nothing gets
caught at all.

Transfer

When the bee lands the
morning glory bloom
dips some and weaves:
 the coming true of
 weight
 from weightless wing-held
 air
seems at the touch
implausible.

Making

In wingbar light
the mockingbird
takes the day into
making
takes the clouds still
shipping stars
takes the spring trees'
black small leaves
and with staid motions
and many threads
brings into
view
lightens
and when morning
shows sings
not a whit more beautifully
because it has been dark.

Center

Unvoiced vowels or consonants that are to be prolonged in some way are always underlined.

poco accel.....

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

f *fff* *mf* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *f* *mf*

Soprano
Non-vocal Sounds (snap fingers, maraca, tambourine, triangle)

Á br fill - s up the stream - side bush with waste - ful song, cap - siz - es wa - ter - fall mill run and

The soprano must snap her fingers in first two measures. Later she must also play a maraca, tambourine and triangle. At the beginning of the piece the soprano should hold the maraca and triangle in one hand and snap her fingers in the other. After the first two bars the singer is never called upon to snap fingers again. Anywhere between the second and sixteenth bars the soprano must pick up the tambourine with her free hand. From this point on the triangle and maraca beater are held in one hand and the tambourine in the other. Throughout the song, the triangle and maraca always sound simultaneously. Since the triangle beater and the maraca are held in the same hand, whenever the triangle is struck the maraca also will sound. The singer should not be concerned if, while singing, the tambourine accidentally rings occasionally.



ff *a tempo subito* *p* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf*

6 16

su - per - high - way to song's im - pro - vi - dent cen - ter lo - st in the green



13 16 8

(mf) *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

bu - sh green an - swer - ing - bush ch

20

p *mp* *mp* *p*

wi - - ind va - - ries

fff m
t

24

pp *mf* *p* *ff* *ppp* *ppp*

the noon sun ca - s - ts me - sh ts re - frac - tions on the

(clearly articulate "s" and "ts" in "casts")

m *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

29

mf *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *fff*

streams am - ber bot - tom t ch

f *mp* *fff* m
t *mf* *fff*

36 *fff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *f*

ts and no - thing at all gets, ch

fff *mp* *mp* *f*

[m]
[t]
[tr]

42 *fff* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

ch t no - thing gets

fff *p* *ff* *p*

[m]
[t]

48 *fff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

sh caught at all.

fff *fff* *mp* *mp*

[t]
[m]
[t]

53 *fff* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *fff* *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp*

ts t sh k ch t ts

fff *mf* *f* *ppp* *fff* *fff*

m m m t m t

t t tr



58 *fff*

ch t

ch t

ca. 2' 30"

Transfer

Soprano $\text{♩} = 60$ *p* *f* *sub. ppp*

Non-vocal sounds (triangle)

Whe - n the bee lands the



5 *ff* *ppp* *sfz > ppp* (*ppp*) *mf* *p* *f* *ppp*

mor - n - ning ning ning glo - ry bloom di - - - - ps

tr *ppp* *mf* *fff*



10 (*ppp*) $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *ppp, sempre*

some and weaves: the co - ming true of weight

ppp

16 *(ppp)*

from weight - less wing held air seems

f

21

the touch im - - - plau - - - si - - - ble

ca. 1' 20''

Making

Unvoiced vowels or consonants which are to be prolonged in some way are always underlined.

Upper line indicates specific moments when soprano is required to speak into cupper hands, and also indicates changes from cupped hands to open hands (see instructions).

Tempo: ♩=80

Instrumentation: soprano, non-vocal sounds

Lyrics:
In wing - bar light the mock - ing - bird ta - kes the day in - to
ma - king ta - kes the clou - ds till sh ip - ping s - tar s
sh ta - kes the s - pring tree - s

Performance Instructions:
unvoiced, sempre
mf, *ppp*, *mf*, *mf*, *ppp*, *fff*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *fff*, *p*
5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 5

14

ff *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *p*

black small leaves and with s - taid mo - tion - s and



18

c o c o c o

ma - ny threads bring - s in - to view ligh - tens and when



22

o c o c o c

mor - ning s - sh - ow - s s - ing - s not a whit more beau - ti - fully

(pronounce "-fully" as one syllable)

26

be - cau - se it

30

ha - s sh been dark sh

Arrow indicates gradual change from open to closed, or vice versa.

34

ts sh ts

39

ppp < *fff* > *ppp*

sh → shu ti

Arrow indicages gradual change from "sh" to "shu"



44

f *fff* > *ppp* < *fff* > *ppp*

sh

sh ti



49

fff > *ppp* *fff* > *ppp*

s

ts

54

o c

fff

t ch



59

o c

f *p* *fff* *ppp*

sh ts

fff

ch t



64

c

fff

k ch t

fff *ppp*

ts

Musical score for measures 69-72. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a double bar line at the beginning. The lower staff is a grand staff with a bass clef and a double bar line at the beginning. Measure 69: The upper staff has a whole rest. The lower staff has a whole rest. Measure 70: The upper staff has a quarter note with an 'x' above it and a 'c' below it. The lower staff has a quarter note with an 'x' above it and a 'ch' below it, followed by a sixteenth note with an 'x' above it and a 't' below it. Measure 71: The upper staff has a quarter note with a 'y' above it. The lower staff has a quarter note with a 'y' above it. Measure 72: The upper staff has a quarter note. The lower staff has a quarter note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

ca. 4'
1999