

the root, the sap

for

soprano and piano

T. DeLio

Text: Basil Bunting

1988

for Teddy

to whom I commend its words and sounds

Duration: approximately 13 minutes

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the root, the sap

soprano and piano

1. Prelude
2. “A thrush in the syringa sings”
3. “Three Michaelmas daisies”
4. Interlude I
5. “Stones trip Coquet burn”
6. Interlude II
7. At Briggflatts meetinghouse

Four poems by Basil Bunting

from

Second Book of Odes

1975

A thrush in the syringa sings.

‘Hunger ruffles my wings, fear,
lust, familiar things.

Death thrusts hard. My sons
by hawk’s beak, by stones,
trusting weak wings
by cat and weasel, die.

Thunder smothers the sky.
From a shaken bush I
list, familiar things,
fear, hunger, lust.’

O gay thrush!

Three Michaelmas daisies
on an ashtray;
one abets love;
one droops and woos;

one stiffens her petals
remembering
the root, the sap
and the bees' play.

Stones trip Coquet burn;
grass trails, tickles
till her glass thrills.

The breeze she wears
lifts and falls back.
Where beast cool

in midgy shimmer
she dares me chase
under a bridge,

giggles, ceramic
huddle of notes,
darts from gorse

and I follow, fooled.
She must rest, surely;
some steep pool

to plodge or dip
and silent taste
with all my skin.

At Briggflatts meetinghouse

Boasts time mocks cumber Rome. Wren
set up his own monument.
Others watch fells dwindle, think
the sun's fires sink.

Stones indeed sift to sand, oak
blends with saints' bones.
Yet for a little longer here
stone and oak shelter

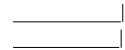
Silence while we ask nothing
but silence. Look how clouds dance
Under the wind's wing, and leaves
delight in transience.

Prelude

Piano

$\text{♩} = 46$

sa _____
uc _____



ca. 3/4'

"A thrush in the syringa sings"

Soprano

pp *pp* *pp*

A thrush in the

Piano

ppp *f* *ppp*

mp *ra* *uc*

mf *pp*

sy- -rin- -ga sings.

♩ = 60

ppp

'Hun-ger ruf-fles my wings

ppp

fa. —————>
uc —————>

On this and subsequent pages, placement of unstemmed notes on page is approximately proportional to their placement in time. Also, in these bars the voice should hold each note until the next note starts, unless the note is cut off with a breath mark.



fear, lust, fa-mil-iar things.

ppp

♩ = 46

f ————— *fff*

Death thrusts hard

ppp (*ppp*) *mp* ————— *fff*

mp ————— *fff*

uc —————

♩ = 60 *ppp*

My sons , , ,

by hawk's beak by stones

ppp

uc —————>

trus- -ting weak wings , *mf* , *ppp* by cat and wea- -sel die. ,

(ppp)



ppp , *mp* , *ppp* ,

Thun- -der smo- -thers the sky. From a

ppp *mf* *ppp*

uc →

(ppp) , , *mf* , *f* , *mp* , *ppp* ,

sha-ken bush I list fa-mil-iar things fear, hun-ger lust!

(ppp)

_____ |
 _____ |
 _____ |

Cut off all notes with pedal except D#.

♩ = 46

mp *fff*

O gay thrush!

fff

ca. 2'

"Three Michaelmas daisies"

soprano

piano

$\text{♩} = 54$

pp

Three Mi- -chael-mas dai- -sies on an ash- -tray; one a- -bets love;

pp sempre senza ped. *p* *f* *pp*



one droops and woos; one stif- -fens her pe- -tals re- -mem- ber- -ing the

mp *mf* *p* *ppp*

(*ppp* sempre)

root, the sap and the bees' play.

ppp sempre

ca. 3/4'

Interlude

♩ = 60

Piano

ppp

sa →

uc →

A musical staff consisting of two staves, treble and bass clefs. The treble clef staff has a single note with a flat (Bb) in the second measure. The bass clef staff is empty. The staff is divided into three measures by vertical bar lines.

—————>
—————>
Hold until sound dies out.

ca. 1'

"Stones trip Coquet burn"

p quasi parlato sempre

p

mf *p*

sempre senza ped.

soprano

piano

Stones trip Co-quet burn; grass trails, tick-les till her glass thrills. The breeze she wears

lifts and falls back. Where best cool in mid-gy shim-mer she dares me chase un-der a bridge,

gig-gles ce-ra-mic hud-dles of notes, darts from gorse and I fol-low, fooled. She

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



must rest, sure-ly some steep pool to plodge or dip and si-lent taste with all my skin.

f *p < f* *ppp* *f*

ca. 1/2'

Interlude II

Piano

ppp

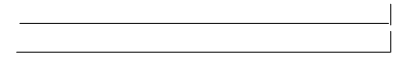
$\text{♩} = 60$

sa →

uc →



A musical score for guitar, consisting of two staves: a treble staff (top) and a bass staff (bottom). The score is divided into three measures by vertical bar lines. The first two measures are empty. The third measure contains a single note on the treble staff, which is a sharp (F#) on the first line. The bass staff contains a single note, which is a sharp (F#) on the second line. Above the treble staff in the third measure, there is a vertical stack of six short horizontal lines, representing a guitar chord or fingering. The score ends with a double bar line.



ca. 1'

At Briggflatts meetinghouse

♩ = 60 *sff-pp* *sff-pp* *sff-pp* *sff-pp* *sff-pp*

soprano Boasts time mocks cum-ber

piano *ff* *fff* *mp* *fff* *fff* *mp*

sff-pp *sff-pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Rome, Wren set up his own mon-ument

fff *ppp*

mf *fff*
 O- -thers watch
ppp fells
fff *ppp* dwin- -dle,
ppp think



10 *mf* *pp* *fff*
 the sun's fires sink
fff *ppp*
ppp *ppp*
 UC UC

♩ = 54

ppp

5

3

5

15

Stones in- -deed sift to sand, oak

pp *mf* *pp*

blends with saint's bones

5

3

fff sub. *ppp*

ppp

20

Musical score for the first system, measures 20-22. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 20 contains rests in all staves. Measure 21 features a *mf* dynamic in the Bass staff, which tapers to *ppp* in the Middle staff. Measure 22 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the Middle staff and a single eighth note in the Bass staff. A fermata is placed over the eighth note in the Bass staff.



Musical score for the second system, measures 23-25. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 23 contains rests in all staves. Measure 24 features a *ppp* dynamic in the Middle staff. Measure 25 includes a *mf* dynamic in the Treble staff, which tapers. The Treble staff contains a melodic line with a five-note slur and a three-note slur. The lyrics "Yet for a" are positioned below the Treble staff. A fermata is placed over the final note in the Bass staff.

25

p *mf* *pp*

lit- -tle lon- -ger here

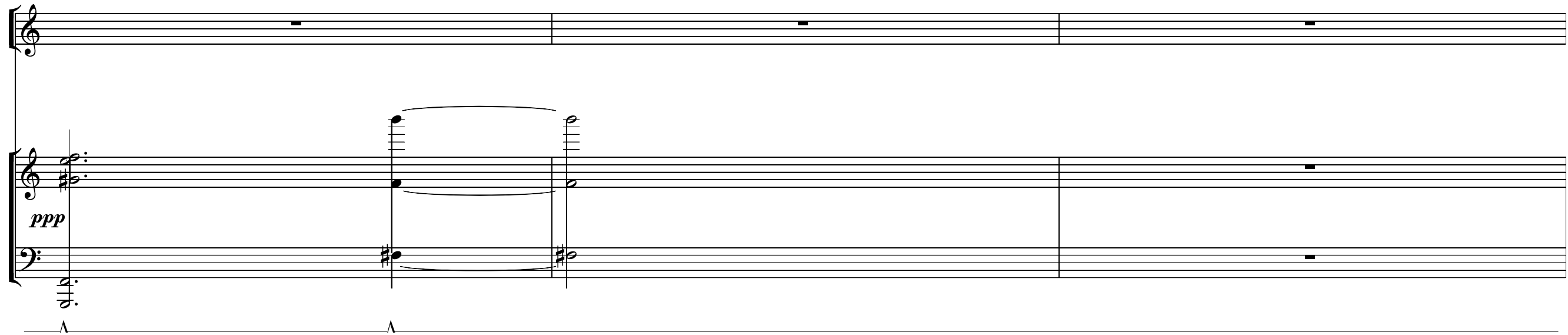
ppp *mf* *ppp*

p *f* *p*

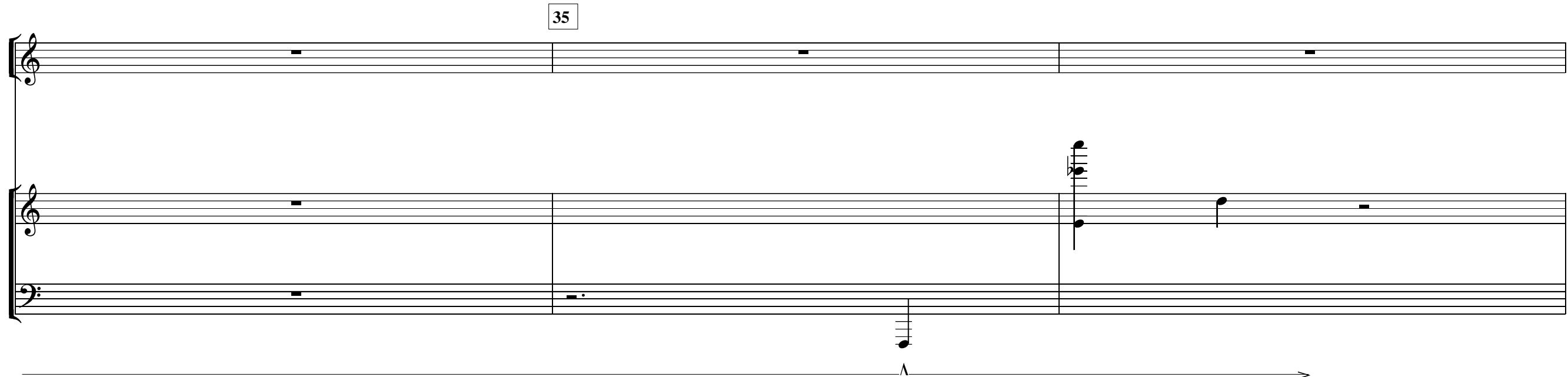
stones and oak shel- -ter

ppp *f* *ppp*

30



Musical score system 1, consisting of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a whole rest in each of the three measures. The middle staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a dynamic marking of *ppp*. It contains a half note chord (F4, A4) in the first measure, which is tied to the second measure. The third measure contains a whole rest. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a whole rest in each of the three measures. There are two fermatas below the first and second measures of the middle staff.



Musical score system 2, consisting of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a whole rest in each of the three measures. A box containing the number "35" is positioned above the first measure. The middle staff is a treble clef with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole rest in the second measure, and a half note chord (F4, A4) in the third measure. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole rest in the second measure, and a half note chord (F3, A3) in the third measure. A fermata is placed below the third measure of the bottom staff.

Keep pedal down
until sound dies out.

A musical staff system consisting of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef, the middle staff has a treble clef, and the bottom staff has a bass clef. Each staff contains three measures, each with a single horizontal line representing a note.



40

A musical staff system consisting of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef, the middle staff has a treble clef, and the bottom staff has a bass clef. Each staff contains four measures, each with a single horizontal line representing a note. The fourth measure of each staff has a 5/4 time signature written below the staff.

♩ = 46 *ppp* sempre 45

si-

ppp sempre

sc _____
uc _____

ppp sempre

-lence

sc _____
uc _____

50

while we

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing two measures of music with lyrics "while" and "we". The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part includes various notes and rests across the three measures.



rit.
uc

The second system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing three measures of music. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part includes various notes and rests across the three measures.

55

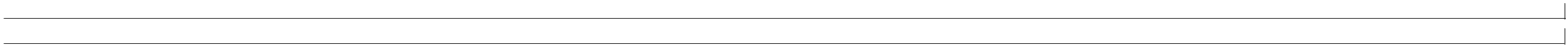
Musical notation for measures 55-57. Measure 55: Treble clef, whole note G4, lyrics "ask". Measure 56: Treble clef, whole rest. Measure 57: Treble clef, whole rest; Bass clef, whole note F#3.

ua _____
uc _____



60

Musical notation for measures 60-62. Measure 60: Treble clef, whole rest; Bass clef, whole note G2. Measure 61: Treble clef, whole rest; Bass clef, whole note A#2. Measure 62: Treble clef, whole rest; Bass clef, whole note B2.



thing

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, containing a whole rest in the first measure, a half note 'thing' in the second measure, and a whole rest in the third measure. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. Both contain whole rests in all three measures.



65

but

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, containing a whole rest in the first measure, a whole rest in the second measure, and a half note 'but' in the third measure. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment. The middle staff (treble clef) contains a whole rest in the first measure, a half note with a sharp sign in the second measure, a half note with a sharp sign in the third measure, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains a whole rest in the first measure, a whole rest in the second measure, a half note in the third measure, and a quarter note in the fourth measure.

uc _____

si-

uc

The first system of music spans measures 67 to 69. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef, a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note 'si-' on a dotted line, which is held over the first two measures. The piano accompaniment in the treble clef features a sequence of notes: a half note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G#4, a half note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef has a half note G3 in the first measure, followed by a half rest in the second and third measures.

Two empty musical staves, one above and one below the first system, with a double bar line on the left side.

70

-lence

The second system of music spans measures 70 to 72. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef, a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note '-lence' on a dotted line, which is held over the first two measures. The piano accompaniment in the treble clef features a sequence of notes: a half note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G#4, a half note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef has a half note G3 in the first measure, followed by a half rest in the second and third measures.

Two empty musical staves, one above and one below the second system, with a double bar line on the left side.

75

Look how

uc



clouds

uc

80

mf *pp*

dance un- -der the wind's wing and

ra _____
uc _____

ra _____
uc _____



f *ppp*

leaves de- -light in tran-

ra _____
uc _____

ra _____
uc _____

ra _____
uc _____

85

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics "-si-" and "-ence." The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. Below the bottom staff, there are two sets of fingerings: the first set is for the first measure and the second set is for the last measure. Each set includes a treble clef staff with a sharp sign and the letters "uc" below it.

ca. 7'
1988