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Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie"

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Author

Fleisher, Robert Jay

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FIVE SONGS FROM CARL SANDBURG'S "PRAIRIE"

for Darsha

1. I was born on the prairie

text: Carl Sandburg

music: Robert Fleisher

Slowly ($\text{♩} = 45-50$)

mp

Soprano

I was born on the

Piano

mp

prairie and the milk of its wheat, the red of its clo-ver, the eyes of its

wom-en, gave me a song and a slo - gan

mf *mp*

14

Here I know I will han-ker af-ter noth-ing so

18

much as one more sun-rise or a sky moon of fire _____ dou-bled to a

21

riv-er moon of wa-ter. _____

25

The prai-rie sings to me in the forenoon and I know in the night I rest ea - sy

mf *mp*

30

in the prai-rie arms, _____ on the prai - rie heart. _____

mf *mp*

36

O prai-rie moth-er, I am one of your boys. _____

mf *mp*

mf

41

I have loved the prai-rie as a man with a heart shot full of pain o-ver love.

mf

mp

45

Here I know I will han-ker af-ter noth-ing so much as one more sun-rise or a sky moon of fire

mp

mf

49

— dou-bled to a riv-er-moon of wa-ter.

mf *p* *pp* *rit.*

2. I am here when the cities are gone

Moving, but not rushed ($\text{♩} = 105-115$)

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest for three measures, followed by the lyrics "I am" on a half note. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*mp*) dynamic, playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass and chords in the treble. The dynamic changes to mezzo-forte (*mf*) in the second measure. The system concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a five-measure rest, then sings "here when the cit - ies are gone." followed by "I am" on a half note. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, maintaining the mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The system concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

The third system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a nine-measure rest, then sings "here be - fore the cit - ies come." followed by "I" on a half note. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, maintaining the mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The system concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

13

nour - ished the - lone - ly men on hors - es. I will

17

keep the laugh - ing men who ride i - ron.

21

f
I am dust of

25 *mp*

men.

25 *mp* *mf*

29 slightly faster

I am dust of your dust,

29 *mp*

33

as I am broth - er and moth - er To the cop - per

33

mf

37

fa - ces, the work - er in flint and clay, The sing - ing

mp

41

wom - en and their sons a thousand years a - go March - ing sin - gle

mf *a tempo* *mp* *mf*

46

file the tim - ber and the plain. I am

51

here when the cit - ies are gone. I am here be - fore the cit-ies come. I

mf

57

nour - ished the lone-ly men on hors - es. I will

61

keep the laugh - ing men who ride i - ron.

65 *f*
I am dust of

69 *mp*
men.

73 *rit.*
p

3. Have you seen a red sunset

Broadly ($\text{♩} = 68-74$)

sempre legato

mp

mp

Have you seen a red sun-set drip o-ver one of my

corn-fields, the shore of night stars, the wave lines of dawn up a wheat

8

val - ley? — Have you heard my

10 *mf*

thresh-ing crews yell-ing in the chaff of a straw - pile and the run-ning

10 *mf*

13 *mp*

wheat of the wag - on boards,

13 *mp*

15

my corn hus-kers, my har-vest hands haul-ing crops,

17

slightly broader

mf *a tempo* *mp*

sing-ing dreams of wom-en, — worlds, — ho - ri - zons? —

20

p *pp*

a bit slower

a bit slower

4. Rivers cut a path on flat lands

Flowing (♩ = 140-150)

The piano introduction consists of two systems. The first system shows a treble clef staff with a whole rest and a bass clef staff with a series of chords. The second system continues the bass clef chords. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the second system.

The first system of the vocal entry shows a treble clef staff with a melody starting on a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ending with a half note. The lyrics are "Rivers cut a path on flat lands." followed by a long line and "The moun-tains stand". The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the bass clef. The dynamic marking *mp* is present. The system number 5 is indicated at the beginning.

The second system of the vocal entry shows a treble clef staff with a melody starting on a quarter note, followed by quarter notes, and ending with a half note. The lyrics are "up. The salt o-ceans press in". The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the bass clef. The dynamic marking *mf* is present. The system number 11 is indicated at the beginning.

17 *mp*
And push on the coast lines.

23 *mp*
The sun, the wind, bring

29 *mf* *f*
rain And I know what the rain-bow writes across the east or

35 *mf*
west _____ in a _____ half - - - cir - cle: _____

40 *mp*
_____ a love - let - ter pledge _____

46 *p* *rit.* - - - gain.

5. I speak of new cities and new people

Slowly (♩ = 60-68)

mp

8va I speak of new cities and new

mp

8va peo-ple. I tell you the past is a buck-et of ash-es. I tell you yes-ter-day is a

slightly faster

mf

8va wind gone down, a sun dropped in the west. I tell you there is nothing in the

mf

15 world on - ly an o - cean of to - mor - rows, a sky ___ of to - mor - rows. ___

p

15

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 18. The vocal line (top staff) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "world on - ly an o - cean of to - mor - rows, a sky ___ of to - mor - rows. ___". The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) features a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It consists of block chords, with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a hairpin indicating a gradual decrease in volume over the measures.

19 *a tempo* *mp* I am a broth - er of the

19 *mp*

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 24. The vocal line (top staff) has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It starts with a whole rest for four measures, then begins with the lyrics "I am a broth - er of the". The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a hairpin indicating a gradual increase in volume. The piano part includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and a *sva* (sustained) marking over the first two measures.

25 *p rit.* corn - hus - kers who say at sun - down: To - mor - row is a day.

25 *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 28. The vocal line (top staff) has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It begins with the lyrics "corn - hus - kers who say at sun - down: To - mor - row is a day.". The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a hairpin indicating a gradual increase in volume. The piano part includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and a *sva* (sustained) marking over the first two measures.