

Ross James Carey

# Five Songs

mezzo-soprano/baritone and viola

Five Songs for mezzo-soprano or baritone and viola is a setting of five selected poems from Ruth Dallas' 1966 collection 'Day Book: Poems of a Year'. They were composed in Dunedin in July 2000 for the Ruth Dallas 80th birthday celebration at the first Otago Festival of the Arts, held in October that same year. The performers on that occasion in the original version for mezzo-soprano and cello were Ana Good and the Panache Ensemble.

Stylistically, these songs are very simple, relying on modal melodies and simple harmonies, mirroring the directness of the poet's language. The poems speak of the natural environment of the southern part of New Zealand's South Island/Te Waipounamu and I was likewise inspired by the beauty of the region while setting them to music.

Five Songs are dedicated to my father, like the poet a native of New Zealand's far south.

Duration: c. 5'

To my Father  
**Five Songs**  
mezzo-soprano or baritone and viola

Ruth Dallas  
(Poems selected from Day Book, Poems of a Year, 1966)

Ross James Carey

## I. September

The musical score for 'September' is written for voice and viola. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a viola line on a bass clef staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 106. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Un-der thin boughs in Sept - em-ber Pa - ler than sun - light Soft as the soft grass clus - ter the daff - o - dils Ea - ger as love as ice de - li - cate Young'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *p*, and *mf*, and a *rit.* (ritardando) marking at the end of the piece.

**1 = 106**

*mp*

Un - der thin boughs in Sept - em - ber

**7**

Pa - ler than sun - light Soft as the soft grass clus - ter the

**12**

daff - o - dils Ea - ger as love as

**16**

ice de - li - cate Young

*rit.* *p*

*rit.* *p*

## II. The Sea

♩ = 72 With feeling

*p* *mp*

Night long round the hol-low sky

*mp* *p* *mp*

6

*p* *mp*

As round a cave sounds The dis-tant surf's

*p* *mp*

11

*p* *p*

Low un - va - ry - ing som - bre Drone

*p* *mp*

15

*p* *mp*

# III. The Pool

$\text{♩} = 72 (\text{♩} = 144)$  Playfully

*mp* *mf*

Rip-ples from a stone

$\text{♩} = 72 (\text{♩} = 144)$  Playfully

pizz. arco pizz.

*mf*

4

*p* *mf*

Dropped in a pool\_ Like a poem's mean-ing

arco pizz. arco sul pont. *sfp*

7

pizz. *cresc.* *mf*

11

*p* *rit. piùp*

Go tra-velling on

*rit. piùp*

*mp* *p* *piùp*

## IV. Rainy Sunday

$\text{♩} = 92$

*f*

The branch - es of the au-tumn

$\text{♩} = 92$   
arco

*pp* *p* *fp* sul pont.

4 *mp*

trees are black with rain

ord.

6 *f* *mp*

Saff - ron leaves like lan - terns hang in the

sul pont.

*fp*

8

griev - ing sky

ord.

*mf*

The musical score is for a piece titled 'IV. Rainy Sunday'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The first system (measures 1-3) features a vocal line starting with a fermata and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *fp*. The second system (measures 4-5) has a vocal line with a fermata and a piano accompaniment with a 3/2 time signature change. Dynamics include *mp*. The third system (measures 6-7) features a vocal line with a fermata and a piano accompaniment with a *f* dynamic. The fourth system (measures 8-9) has a vocal line with a fermata and a piano accompaniment with a 3/2 time signature change and a *mf* dynamic. Performance instructions include 'arco', 'sul pont.', and 'ord.'.

9 **accel.** . . . . ♩ = 108 *p* scherzoso

Some-one with a red um-bre -lla Goes through the

*p* *mp*

12 *cresc.* **accel.** . . . . ♩ = 128 *mf*

rain and the trees Hur-ry-ing

*p* *mf*

**accel.** . . . . ♩ = 128

14 *p* **rit.** . . . . ♩ = 108 ♩ = 92

by

*p* *piùp* *pp*

**rit.** . . . . ♩ = 108 ♩ = 92

# V. In day becalmed

$\text{♩} = 80$  *v.1 mp with freedom*

In\_\_ day be-calmed be-fore hard frost\_\_

*rfz mf p*

5

Horse ches-nuts break their heads, are car-ried The town ov-er in pock-ets of small boys

9

— Lost, are re-placed by a corns\_\_ wal nuts\_\_

*p pp*

14 *v.2*

Spi-ders for the last time are\_ sun - ning\_\_ Their chil-ly legs on

*p*



19

board; A few in-dust-rious bees still toil a-mong the a-sters and the dah-lia

*mp* *p*

24

v.3 The child-ren on the wings are care-free Be-liev-ing to-mor-row re

*mp* *mp*

28

peats to-day Man hav-ing cast the fi-la-ment That

32

warns\_ of ap-proach-ing change

*f* *p* **Meno mosso** ♩ = 66

**Meno mosso** ♩ = 66

35

hmmn\_ hmmn\_ hmmn\_

*f* *pp* *rit.* *rfz* *mf* *pp* *rit.* Dur. c. 5'