

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

♩ = 106

mp

Un-der thin boughs in Sept-em-ber

♩ = 106

mp

7

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

12

p *mf*

daff-o-dils Ea-ger as love as

16

rit. *p*

ice de-li-cate Young

rit. *p*

II. The Sea

♩ = 72 With feeling

Musical score for measures 1-5. The piece is in common time (C) and features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 72 With feeling. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "Night long round the hol-low sky". The piano accompaniment starts with a rest, followed by a series of chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Night long round the hol-low sky

Musical score for measures 6-10. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "As round a cave sounds The dis-tant surf's". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

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

Musical score for measures 11-14. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Low un - va - ry - ing som - bre Drone". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

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

Musical score for measures 15-18. The vocal line has a rest. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *p* and *più p* (pianissimo).

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*

p *mp*

7

pizz. *cresc.* *mf*

11

p *rit. più*

Go tra-velling on

mp *p* *rit. più*

IV. Rainy Sunday

$\text{♩} = 92$

f

The branch - es of the au-tumn

pp *p* *fp*

arco
sul pont.

4 *mp*

trees are black with rain

ord.

6 *f* *mp*

Saff - ron leaves like lan - terns hang in the

fp

sul pont.

8

griev - ing sky

ord. *mf*

9 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 108$
p scherzoso

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

p scherzoso **accel.** $\text{♩} = 108$
mp

12 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 128$
cresc. *mf*

rain and the trees Hur-ry-ing

p **accel.** $\text{♩} = 128$
mf

14 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 108$ $\text{♩} = 92$
p

by

p **rit.** $\text{♩} = 108$ $\text{♩} = 92$
pp

V. In day becalmed

$\text{♩} = 80$

v.1
mp with freedom

In__ day be-calmed be-fore hard frost__

$\text{♩} = 80$

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

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piano part begins with a *rfz* (ritardando) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic, then transitions to *p* (piano). The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-13) includes a *p* dynamic marking in the vocal line and a *pp* (pianissimo) marking in the piano part. The fourth system (measures 14-17) is marked as version 2 (v.2) and begins with a *p* dynamic marking. The piano part in the final system concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

19

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

mp *p*

24

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

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**

f *pp* *rfz* *mf* **Meno mosso ♩ = 66**

35

hmmn_ hmmn_ hmmn_

pp **rit.** **Dur. c. 5'**

p *pp*