

Viola

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 is for the song 'September' and is written for a mezzo-soprano or baritone voice and a viola. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. 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. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

♩ = 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

$\text{♩} = 72$ With feeling

p *mp*

Night long round the hol - low sky

$\text{♩} = 72$ With feeling

mp *p* *mp*

6 *p* *mp*

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

p *mp*

11 *p*

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

p *mp*

15 *p* *piùp*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72, and the mood is 'With feeling'. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system (measures 1-5) features a vocal line starting with a half rest, followed by the lyrics 'Night long round the hol - low sky'. The piano accompaniment begins with a half note chord (F#2, C3) and continues with a series of chords and moving lines. The second system (measures 6-10) has the vocal line starting with a half rest, followed by 'As round a cave sounds The dis - tant surf's'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support. The third system (measures 11-14) has the vocal line starting with a quarter note 'Low', followed by 'un - va - ry - ing som - bre Drone'. The piano accompaniment provides a steady accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 15-18) shows the vocal line with a half rest, followed by a final note. The piano accompaniment concludes with a half note chord (F#2, C3) and a final cadence.

III. The Pool

♩ = 72 (♩ = 144) Playfully

mp *mf*

Rip - ples from a stone

♩ = 72 (♩ = 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. piùp*

Go tra - velling on

mp *p* *rit. 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 key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system (measures 1-3) features a vocal line starting with a whole note rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a quarter note G#4. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano introduction in 3/4 time, marked *pp*, then *p*, and finally *fp* with a 'sul pont.' instruction. The second system (measures 4-5) has a vocal line with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with a 'ord.' instruction. The third system (measures 6-7) has a vocal line with notes D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The piano accompaniment continues with a 'sul pont.' instruction and *fp* dynamics. The fourth system (measures 8-9) has a vocal line with notes G5, F#5, E5, and D5. The piano accompaniment continues with a 'ord.' instruction and *mf* dynamics.

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

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

p *mp*

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

rain and the trees Hur - ry - ing

p *mf*

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

by

p *piùp* *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

Spiders 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 - lias

mp *p*

24 v.3
 The child - ren on the swings 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 *f* , *Meno mosso* ♩ = 66 *p*
 warns _____ of ap - proch - ing change **Meno mosso** ♩ = 66

f *pp* *rfz* *mf*

35 *pp* *rit.* Dur. c. 5'
 hmn _____ hmn _____ hmn _____

p *pp*