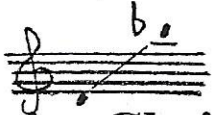


Davide Zannoni

Three Rossetti Songs

For Soprano () and Vibraphone,
on poems by Christina Rossetti

Commissioned by and dedicated to Leesa Levy

Duration: 10 minutes circa

© Davide Zannoni 2006 (BMI)
137 West 12th Street #3-6
New York, NY 10011
(212) 414-1780
www.davidezannoni.com

I: Song

Oh roses for the flush of youth,
And laurel for the perfect prime;
But pluck an ivy branch for me
Grown old before my time.

Oh violets for the grave of youth,
And bay for those dead in their prime;
Give me the withered leaves I chose
Before in the old time.

II: Judge not according to the appearance

Lord, purge our eyes to see
Within the seed a tree,
Within the glowing egg a bird,
Within the shroud a butterfly

Till taught by such, we see
Beyond all creatures Thee,
And hearken for thy tender word,
And hear it, "Fear not: it is I."

III: Song

When I am dead, my dearest,
Sing no sad songs for me;
Plant thou no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress tree:
Be the green grass above me
With showers and dewdrops wet;
And if thou wilt, remember,
And if thou wilt, forget.

I shall not see the shadows,
I shall not feel the rain;
I shall not hear the nightingale
Sing on, as if in pain:
And dreaming through the twilight
That doth not rise nor set,
Haply I may remember,
And haply I may forget.

Program Notes:

Three Rossetti Songs, for Soprano and Vibraphone, is a setting of three poems by Christina Rossetti. The work is intended as a whole, but each song can be performed individually. The first two pieces were commissioned by soprano Leesa Levy, who asked me to write something that would go with an already existing work entitled *Aldina*. I find Christina Rossetti's poetry particularly inspiring, because of both her beautiful language and deeply moving ideas, in which spirituality and nature coexist harmoniously. The first song, called *Song*, is rather tonal and meditative in nature, with clear vocal lines and contrapuntal accompaniment. The second, *Judge not according to the appearance*, is faster, with a more rhythmic and modal accompaniment. The third piece is entitled *Aldina*, and was commissioned, a few years before the others, by the percussionist Federico Maria Poli. It was composed in memory of my mother Alda Melchiori. The text used is also called *Song*. The poem describes the parting from life and evokes, in a lyrical and moving style, some scenes from the natural world, which was very dear to my mother. The title was inspired by an old photo of my mother as a very young child, found by chance in one of her drawers. On the back of the photo someone wrote in pencil "Aldina" (Little Alda). Generally we are not used to thinking of our parents as children; therefore I found this image of my mother as a baby particularly moving.

Notes for the performers:

Whirling tubes are ad libitum and can be omitted if they are not available. The notation in the vibraphone should always be played as four sixteenth notes ().



Programma di Sala:

Three Rossetti Songs, per voce di Soprano e Vibrafono, è un ciclo basato su tre poesie di Christina Rossetti. Il lavoro è inteso come un tutto organico, ma ogni lied può essere eseguito individualmente. I primi due sono stati commissionati dal soprano Leesa Levy, che mi ha chiesto di scrivere qualcosa che potesse essere eseguito insieme ad *Aldina*, composto alcuni anni prima. Trovo la poesia di Christina Rossetti molto stimolante, sia per la musicalità del suo linguaggio che per i suoi concetti, che fondono natura e spiritualità in un equilibrio molto delicato. Il primo brano, *Song*, è tonale e meditativo, con una parte vocale chiara e accompagnamento contrappuntistico. Il secondo, *Judge not according to the appearance*, è più veloce, con un accompagnamento più ritmico e modale.

Il terzo brano, *Aldina*, è stato commissionato alcuni anni prima degli altri due dal percussionista Federico Maria Poli, ed è stato composto in memoria di mia madre, Alda Melchiori. Anche questo testo della Rossetti si chiama *Song*, una poesia in cui, in un tono lirico e pacato e con toecante semplicità viene cantato l'addio alla vita, evocando alcune immagini della natura che erano anche molto care a mia madre. Il titolo è stato ispirato da una vecchia foto di lei bambina, trovata per caso in un suo cassetto, sul retro della quale qualcuno ha scritto a matita "Aldina".

Note per gli esecutori:

L'uso dei tubi corrugati non è obbligatorio: se non si trovano si possono omettere. La notazione per il vibrafono deve sempre essere eseguita come una quartina di sedicesimi.



Calm (♩ = 80 circa)

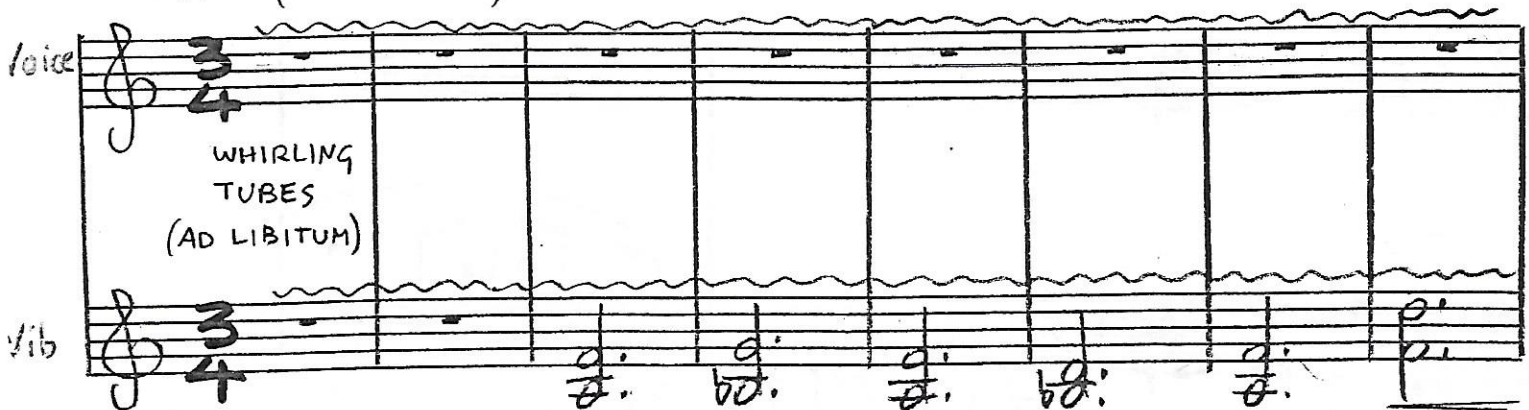
I: Song

Commissioned by and dedicated to Leesa Levy

voice

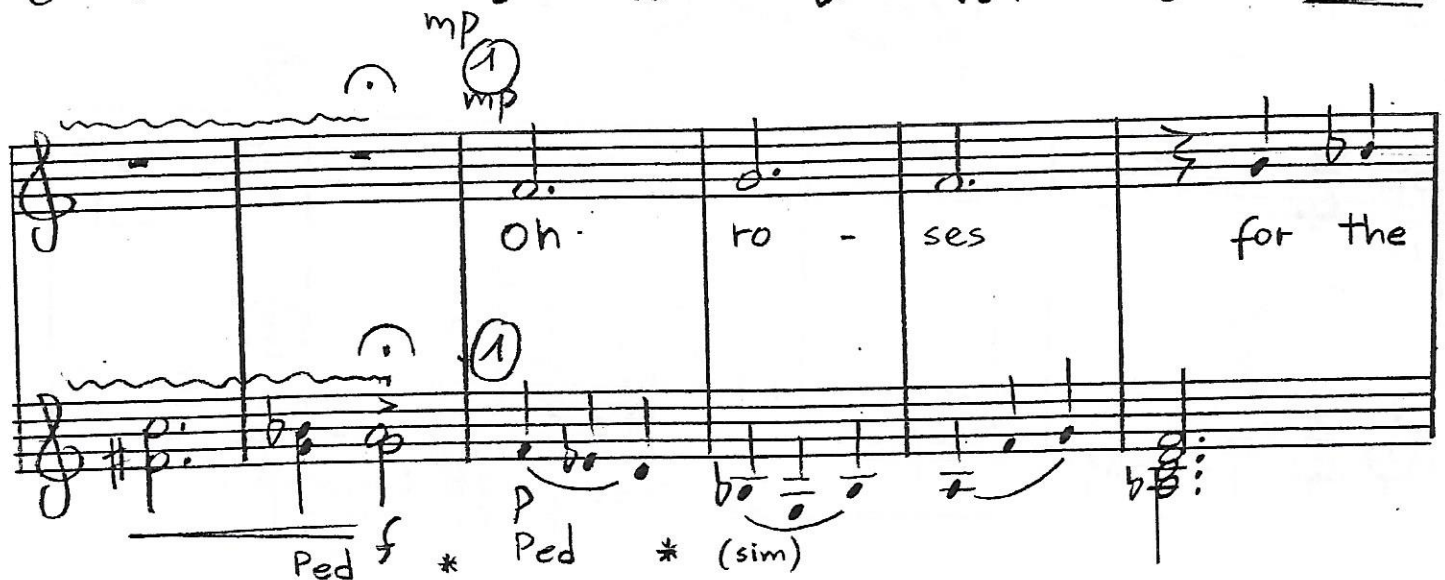
WHIRLING
TUBES
(AD LIBITUM)

vib



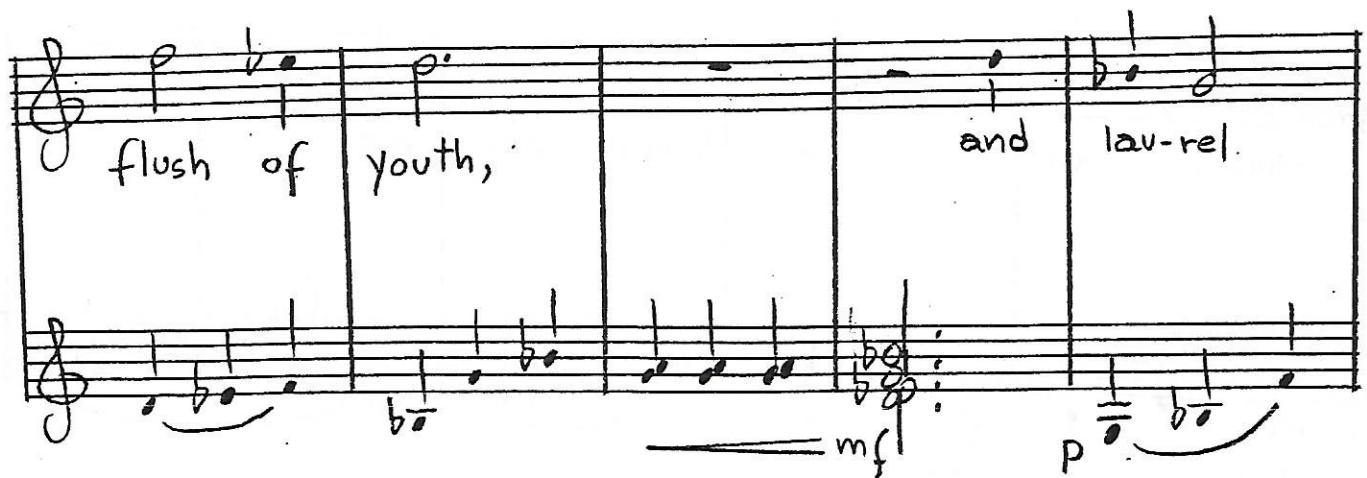
Oh - ro - ses for the

Ped f * Ped * (sim)



flush of youth, and lau-rel.

mf

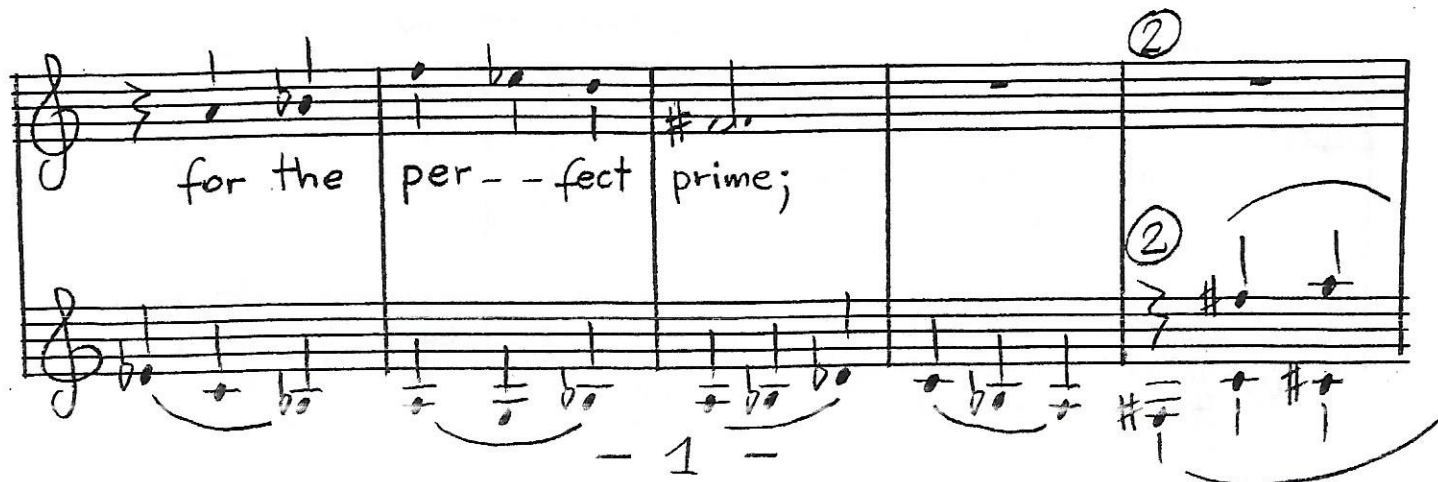


for the per - - fect prime;

②

②

- 1 -



Handwritten musical score for the first system. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music includes several measures with notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The word "Ped" appears twice, and there are asterisks (*) indicating specific notes or measures. A circled number 3 is at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. The top staff is a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music includes several measures with notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The word "but" is written in the lyrics. A circled number 3 is at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the third system. The top staff is a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music includes several measures with notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The lyrics "pluck an i - vy branch for me" are written below the notes. The word "Ped" appears twice, and there is a circled number 3 at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system. The top staff is a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music includes several measures with notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The lyrics "grown old be - fore my time." are written below the notes. The word "Ped" appears twice, and there is a circled number 3 at the end of the system.

④

④

* Ped * Ped * Ped

* Ped * Ped

* Ped *

⑤ mp

Ped * Ped

⑤

Ped * Ped

poco rit - - - f Tempo

vi-o-lets for the grave of youth,

poco rit - - - Tempo

mf p

⑥ mp and bay for those dead in their

⑥

prime;

f

⑦ f give me the with-ered leaves I chose be-

⑦ mf

- 4 -

Handwritten musical score for a vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The score is written on two staves.

Vocal Melody (Top Staff):

- Time signature: 4/4.
- Key signature: one sharp (F#).
- Lyrics: "fore in the old time."
- Dynamic markings: *p* (piano) above the first measure, *morendo - - - pp* (diminuendo - - - pianissimo) above the final measure.

Piano Accompaniment (Bottom Staff):

- Time signature: 4/4.
- Key signature: one sharp (F#).
- Dynamic markings: *p* (piano) below the first measure, *Ped* (pedal) below the final measure.

Handwritten musical score for a piano accompaniment. The score is written on two staves.

Piano Accompaniment (Top Staff):

- Time signature: 4/4.
- Key signature: one sharp (F#).

Piano Accompaniment (Bottom Staff):

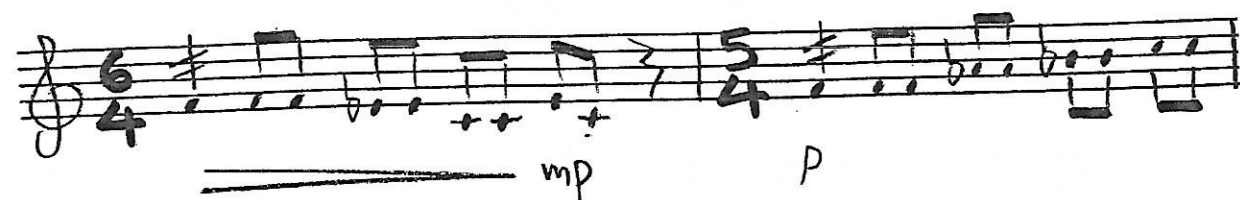
- Time signature: 4/4.
- Key signature: one sharp (F#).
- Dynamic markings: *rallentando e diminuendo - - - ppp ** (rallentando e diminuendo - - - pianissimissimo *) below the first measure.

Duration: 3' circa

Incisive ($\text{♩} = 132 \text{ circa}$) II: Judge not according to the appearance

Vib. 

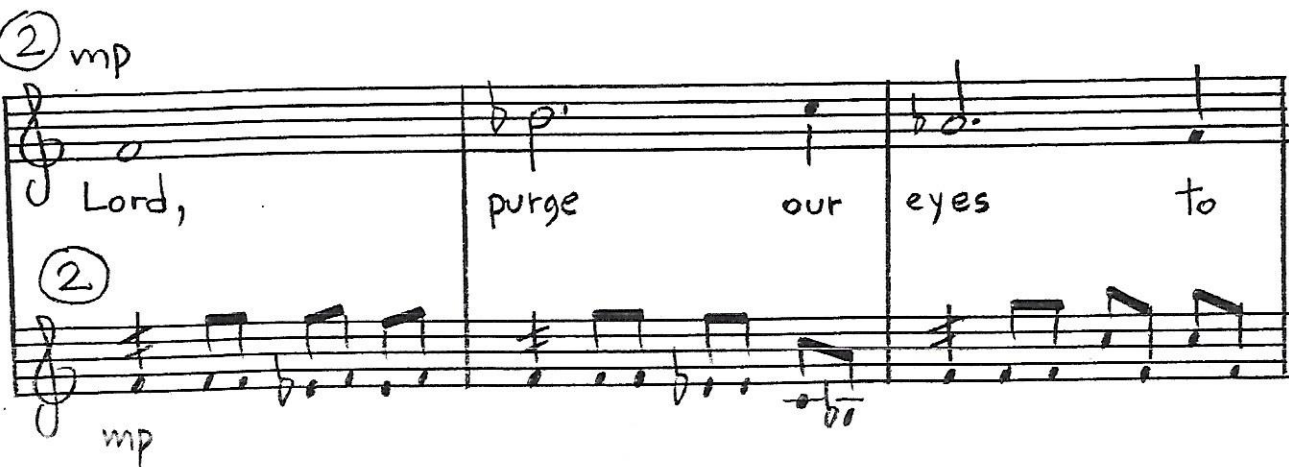


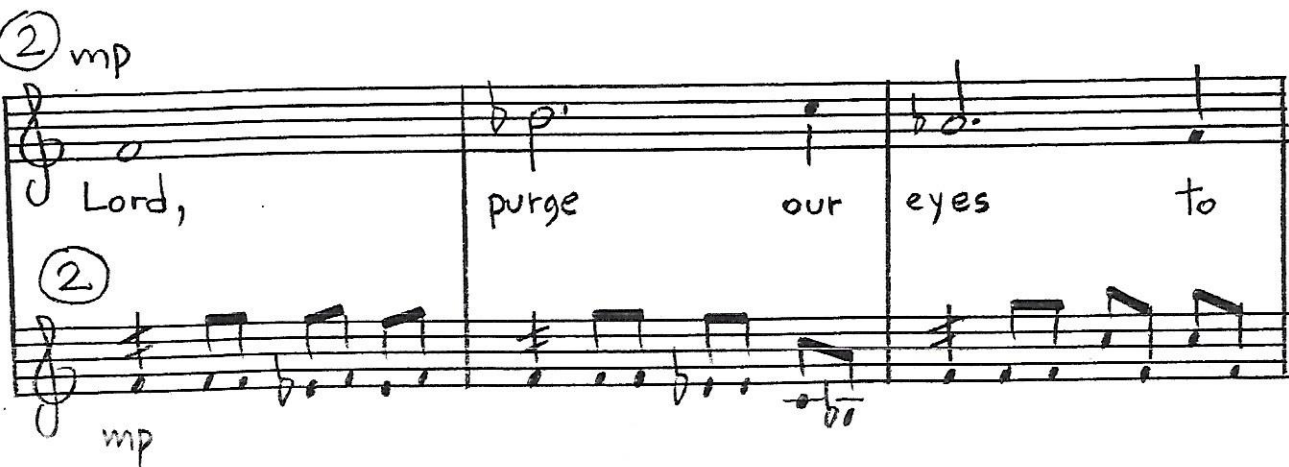








Sop. 
 Lord, purge our eyes to

Vib. 

see with-in the seed a

③ *mf*

③ *mf*

tree, with-in the glow-ing egg a

f

bird, with-in the shroud a but-ter-fly; —

p

5/4

5/4

p

Vib

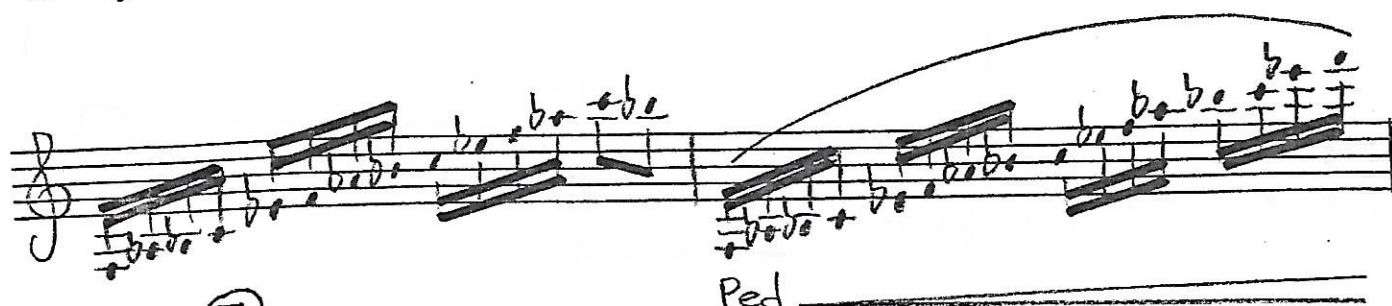
④

3/4

2/4

3/4

4/4



⑤ *mf*

Till taught by such we see

f * *mp*

....

be-yond all crea-tures Thee,

5/4

⑥

and heark-en for Thy ten - der word

⑥

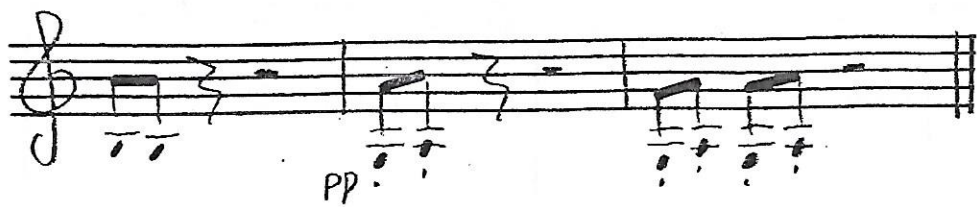
Handwritten musical score, first system. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "and hear it,". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano).

Handwritten musical score, second system. The top staff continues the vocal line with the lyric "It". The bottom staff features a piano accompaniment with a large arpeggiated figure. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *ff* (fortissimo), and *f* (forte). Pedal markings "Ped" and "* Ped" are present. A circled "7" is written in the right margin.

Handwritten musical score, third system. The top staff continues the vocal line with the lyric "is". The bottom staff features a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte). A "Tempo" marking is present above the piano part. Pedal markings "Ped" and "* Ped" are present. A circled "7" is written in the right margin.

Handwritten musical score, fourth system. The top staff is a vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano).

Handwritten musical score, fifth system. The top staff is a vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4.



Tranquillo (♩ = 60 ca)

III: Aldina (in memory of my mother)

Commissioned by and dedicated to Federico Poli

11)

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with dynamics *mf*, *Ped*, and *mp*. Above the bass staff, there are tempo markings: *rit poco*, *Tempo*, and *dim*. The system concludes with a triplet marked *mp* and *Ped*.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with dynamics *mf*, *Ped*, and *f*. Above the bass staff, there are tempo markings: *poco crescendo e accelerando*, *f*, and *rall e dim*. The system concludes with a quintuplet marked *f* and *Ped*.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *mf*, *Ped*, and *p*. Above the bass staff, there are tempo markings: *Tempo* and *(L.V.)*. The system concludes with a melodic line marked *p* and *Ped*.

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *b p*. Above the bass staff, there are tempo markings: *Tempo* and *(L.V.)*. The system concludes with a melodic line marked *p* and *Ped*.

② *poco dim e rit.* — — — — — *Tempo mf* *poco cresc* — — — — —

me; plant thou no roses — at my head;

poco rit. — — — — — *Tempo*

Ped

poco dim — — — — — *mp* ③ *mf*

nor sha-dy cy-press tree: be the

Ped

cresc — — — — — *Poco rit* — — — — —

green grass — a-bove me — with show-ers and

Poco rit — — — — —

cresc — — — — —

Tempo f ④ *p subito*

dew-drops — wet; and if thou wilt, re-mem-ber, —

Tempo ④ *mf* *mf*

f *Ped*

poco cresc - mf dim - - mp

and if thou wilt, for- get. -

5

mp Ped

* Ped

(Ped)

* Ped mf

* Ped

* Ped

* Ped

* Ped

poco accelerando e crescendo - - - - -

poco accel e cresc - - - - -

ff

diminuendo e rallentando - - - - -

dim e rall - - (6) - - - - -

mf Tempo

I shall not

Tempo

mf Ped (L.V.) dim e rall - - - - - p

(L.V.)

Handwritten musical score for "The Rain" by Robert Schumann. The score is written on two staves. The top staff is for the vocal line, and the bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: "see the sha-dows, I shall not feel the rain;". The piano part includes markings for "mf", "Ped", "cresc", and "f".

Handwritten musical score for "The Nightingale" by Schubert. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the melody and piano accompaniment. The second system contains the next two measures. The melody is written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is written in treble clef. The lyrics "I shall not hear the night-in-gale sing on," are written below the melody. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings like "cresc", "f", "dim", and "mp". There are also performance instructions like "Ped" (pedal) and "cresc" (crescendo).

Handwritten musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written on two staves, both in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is marked "moderato".

Staff 1 (Vocal Line):

- Measure 1: 3/4 time, *mf dim*. Lyrics: "as if in".
- Measure 2: 4/4 time, *cresc* (crescendo), *mp*. Lyrics: "pain:".
- Measure 3: 2/4 time, *mf*. Lyrics: "and dream-ing".
- Measure 4: 4/4 time, *mf*. Lyrics: "and dream-ing".

Staff 2 (Piano Accompaniment):

- Measure 1: 3/4 time, *mf dim*. Accompaniment for "as if in".
- Measure 2: 4/4 time, *mp*. Accompaniment for "pain:". Includes a large slur over measures 2 and 3.
- Measure 3: 2/4 time. Accompaniment for "and dream-ing".
- Measure 4: 4/4 time, *mf*. Accompaniment for "and dream-ing".

The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings (*mf*, *dim*, *cresc*, *mp*). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and then to 2/4.

Handwritten musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written on two staves, with the melody on the top staff and the accompaniment on the bottom staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Lyrics:
 through the twi-light — that doth not rise nor

Handwritten Annotations:
 - Above the first measure of the melody: *cresc*
 - Above the second measure of the melody: *f*
 - Above the third measure of the melody: *dim*
 - Above the fourth measure of the melody: *cresc*

⑨ mp subito

set, hap-ly I may re-

mf Ped

mp subito

*

mem-ber, and hap-ly I may for-get.

poco cresc — — — mp.

dim e rall — — — *

Ped

a bocca chiusa, liberamente

p (humming)

port.

liberamente

(with metal or hard plastic mallets)
leggerissimo, (bacchette metallo)

pp morendo e rallentando

Ped

(L.V.) (L.V.)