

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

ERIC SHANFIELD

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

Eric Shanfield | ENS.2012.7

Poem by John Yau

10.31.12-11.1.12 | 11'

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

Alto

>This work may be performed by three solo voices, a small ensemble, or female chorus.

>The entire work may be transposed. If one movement is transposed, all movements *must* be similarly transposed, so that each begins on an inversion of the same major triad.

>Tempi are flexible and phrasing rubato.

>Each movement is slightly slower than the preceding.

>The rhythmic feel should be elastic but clearly syncopated, with notably stronger emphasis given to downbeats and audibly less to upbeats.

>Quarter rests at the ends of phrases represent ensemble breaths and may be performed longer or shorter at the performers' discretion

>Movements may be performed together or separated within a concert; however, the composer requests all three be performed in order whether integrally or interspersed.

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

John Yau

1.

The mountain named after the one
who stumbled into its shadow

The shadow made of slag and smoke
The mountain made of houses

where servants hang themselves
from the clouds

bunched beneath the rafters
The clouds made of houses

where children are sent to sleep
Are you at it again

The mountain dwindles when
another house

takes its place
No, that's not the name for it

Has the head floated off
dumping the body behind the bushes

Why do you call it a "house"
when no one lives there

One of us is walking out of the fire
One of us is pretending to sleep inside the smoke

House of smoke
House of fire

Are you at it again

2.

The moon stares into a mirror
A woman sees an empty dish

One animal licks another
Which of them is dead

I wrapped your scream in a star
I pinned two butterflies to its shadow

Why do we go on singing this song
when we know

all its words are nails
all our tongues pieces of wood

meant to build a house
for liars

The hills sink
beneath the rain

filling the cups
left out on the porch.

The hills we wanted to bury
behind the hills

so that we might weave
a hat or a hut

large enough for our friends
They were never our friends or yours

We do not know them any more
than we know these hills

One animal licks another
Why do we go on singing this song

3.

September hoists its flame against
brown and silver solid night

Did you ask yourself when
September bends its autumn fan

Houses extinguished
their dust let loose in the yard

September brushes rain from the pillow
Did you ask yourself when

the hair floated to the surface
Did you try and lift up its intolerant flame

Homage to Howard Skempton
THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

1.

John Yau

Eric Shanfield

f ≈ 96 Flexible

Soprano
The moun - tain named af - ter the one who stum - bled in - to its

Mezzo-soprano
The moun - tain named af - ter the one who stum - bled in - to its

Alto
The moun - tain named af - ter the one who stum - bled in - to its

① *p*

S.
sha - dow The sha - dow made of slag and smoke The

M-S.
sha - dow The sha - dow made of slag and smoke The

A.
sha - dow The sha - dow made of slag and smoke The

② *f*

S.
moun - tain made of hou - ses where ser - vants hang them-selves

M-S.
moun - tain made of hou - ses where ser - vants hang them-selves

A.
moun - tain made of hou - ses where ser - vants hang them-selves

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

③ *p*

S. from the clouds bunched be - neath the raft - ers

M-S. from the clouds bunched be - neath the raft - ers

A. from the clouds bunched be - neath the raft - ers

④ *ff* ⑤

S. The clouds made of hou - ses where

M-S. The clouds made of hou - ses where

A. The clouds made of hou - ses where

⑥ *f*

S. chil - dren are sent to sleep Are you at it a - gain

M-S. chil - dren are sent to sleep Are you at it a - gain

A. chil - dren are sent to sleep Are you at it a - gain

7 *mf*

S. The moun - tain dwin - dles when a - no - ther house takes its place

M-S. *mf* The moun - tain dwin - dles when a - no - ther house takes its place

A. *mf* The moun - tain dwin - dles when a - no - ther house takes its place

8 *p swell* ————— *mf* ————— *p* 9 *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

S. No, that's not the name for it Has the head float - ed off

M-S. *p swell* ————— *mf* ————— *p* *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

A. *p swell* ————— *mf* ————— *p* *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

No, that's not the name for it Has the head float - ed off

10 *p* 3 11 *mf*

S. dump-ing the bo-dy be-hind the bush - es Why do you call it___ a

M-S. *p* 3 *mf* Why do you call it___ a

A. *p* 3 *mf* dump-ing the bo-dy be-hind the bush - es Why do you call it___ a

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

12 *pp sotto voce*

ff

S. "house" when no one lives there _____ One of us is

M-S. "house" when no one lives there _____ One of us is

A. "house" when no one lives there _____ One of us is

13 *p mezzo voce*

S. walk - ing out of the fire One of us is pre - tend - ing to

M-S. walk - ing out of the fire One of us is pre - tend - ing to

A. walk - ing out of the fire One of us is pre - tend - ing to

14 *ff blazing*

S. sleep in - side the smoke House of smoke

M-S. sleep in - side the smoke House of smoke

A. sleep in - side the smoke House of smoke

15

p

S. House of fi - re _____ House of smoke

M-S. House of fi - re House of smoke

A. House of fi - re House of smoke

16

pp

S. House of fi - re _____ Are you at it a - gain

M-S. House of fi - re Are you at it a - gain

A. House of fi - re Are you at it a - gain

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

John Yau

♩ ≈ 92 Flexible

1

f *p*

Soprano The moon stares in - to a mir - ror_ A wo - man sees an

f *p*

Mezzo-soprano The moon stares in - to a mir - ror_ A wo - man sees an

f *p*

Alto The moon stares in - to a mir - ror_ A wo - man sees an

②

f

S. emp - ty dish One a - ni - mal licks a - no - ther_

M-S. emp - ty dish One a - ni - mal licks a - no - ther_

A. emp - ty dish One a - ni - mal licks a - no - ther_

③

p

f

mf

S. Which of them is dead I wrapped your scream in a star I

M-S. Which of them is dead I wrapped your scream in a star I

A. Which of them is dead I wrapped your scream in a star I

④

⑤

mp

S. pinned two but - ter - flies to its sha - dow_ Why do we

M-S. pinned two but - ter - flies to its sha - dow_ Why do we

A. pinned two but - ter - flies to its sha - dow_ Why do we

⑥

⑦ *mf*

S. go on sing - ing this song when we know all its_ words_ are nails

M-S. go on sing - ing this song when we know all its_ words_ are nails

A. go on sing - ing this song when we know all_____

⑧ *f* *cresc.* 3

S. all our_ tongues pie - ces_ of wood meant to build a house for

M-S. all our_ tongues pie - ces_ of wood meant to build a house for

A. our tongues_____ wood meant to build a house for

⑨ *ff* *f*

S. li - ars_____ The hills sink be - neath the rain

M-S. li - ars_____ The hills sink be - neath the rain

A. li - ars_____ The hills sink be - neath the rain

10

S. *p* fill - ing the cups left out on the porch *f* The

M-S. *p* fill - ing the cups left out on the porch *f* The

A. *p* fill - ing the cups left out on the porch *f* The

11

S. hills we want - ed to bu - ry be - hind the hills

M-S. hills we want - ed to bu - ry be - hind the hills

A. hills we want - ed to bu - ry be - hind the hills

12 *p cresc.* so that we might weave a hat or a hut *mf* large e - nough__ for our

M-S. *p cresc.* so that we might weave a hat or a hut *mf* large e - nough__ for our

A. *p cresc.* so that we might weave a hat or a hut *mf* large_____

(14)

f *mp*

S. friends They were ne - ver our friends or yours

M-S. friends They were ne - ver our friends or yours

A. friends They were ne - ver our friends or yours

(15)

mf

S. We do not know them a - ny more_____

M-S. We do not know them a - ny more_____

A. We do not know them a - ny more_____

(16) (17)

p cresc. *f*

S. than we know these hills One a - ni - mal licks a -

M-S. than we know these hills One a - ni - mal licks a -

A. than we know these hills One a - ni - mal licks a -

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

18

S. *p*
no - ther___ Why do we go on sing - ing this song

M-S. *p*
no - ther___ Why do we go on sing - ing this song

A. *p*
no - ther___ Why do we go on sing - ing this song

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

3.

John Yau

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} \approx 88$ Flexible

Soprano *p*
Sep - tem - ber hoists its flame a - gainst brown and

Mezzo-soprano *p*
Sep - tem - ber hoists its flame a - gainst brown and

Alto *p*
Sep - tem - ber hoists its flame a - gainst brown and

1

S. *mp*
sil - ver so - lid night Did you ask your - self

M-S. *mp*
sil - ver so - lid night Did you ask your - self

A. *mp*
sil - ver so - lid night Did you ask your - self

S. when Sep - tem - ber bends its au - tumn fan

M-S. when Sep - tem - ber bends its au - tumn fan

A. when Sep - tem - ber bends its au - tumn fan

② *p* *mf*

S. Hou - ses ex - tin - guished their dust let loose in the

M-S. Hou - ses ex - tin - guished their dust let loose in the

A. Hou - ses ex - tin - guished their dust let loose in the

③ *p* *mp*

S. yard Sep - tem - ber brush - es rain from the

M-S. yard Sep - tem - ber brush - es rain from the

A. yard Sep - tem - ber brush - es rain from the

THREE LULLABIES FOR TRAKL

④

f

S. pil - low Did you ask your - self when

M-S. pil - low Did you ask your - self when

A. pil - low Did you ask your - self when

⑤

p

S. the hair float - ed to the sur - face

M-S. the hair float - ed to the sur - face

A. the hair float - ed to the sur - face

⑥ *poco rit.*

p cresc.

S. Did you try and lift up its in - to - ler - ant flame

M-S. Did you try and lift up its in - to - ler - ant flame

A. Did you try and lift up its in - to - ler - ant flame

f