

Per Drud Nielsen

Three Songs of Experience

Tre sange for sopran og klaver
baseret på digte af William Blake

The Fly

My Pretty Rose Tree

Ah! Sun-flower

Digteren og billedkunstneren William Blake (1757-1827) er i dag genstand for stor interesse, men mens han levede, digtede og malede i London, blev han anset for en særling. På Blakes tid hyldede man den gryende industrialisering, og man stolede på, at den menneskelige fornuft ville regulere alting til alles bedste. Men i Blakes optik var fornuften ikke enerådende. Blake ville kunne tilslutte sig titlen på en radering af hans spanske malerkollega Francisco Goya: "Fornuftens søvn fostrer uhyrer". Blake så nemlig skyggesiderne af det nye, moderne byliv. Han hæftede sig ved monotonien i det moderne liv og ved tabet af det umiddelbare, det sanselige og det lystfyldte.

I sin digtsamling *Songs of Innocence* (Uskyldens sange) fra 1789 udfolder han et visionært barnligt, uskyldigt univers, hvor netop umiddelbarhed, sanselighed og glæde er i højsædet. Og i den senere digtsamling *Songs of Experience* (Erfaringens sange) fra 1794 udfolder han uskyldens modsætning – det voksne menneskes blandede livserfaring, oplevelsen af de mørke, irrationelle og endda dæmoniske sider af menneskesindet og længslen efter tidens ende.

Den foreliggende lille samling rummer tre sange baseret på digte fra William Blakes *Songs of Experience*. Sammen med denne samling har jeg udarbejdet en anden samling, som rummer tre sange baseret på digte fra Blakes *Songs of Innocence*. De i alt seks sange er transskriptioner af sange for blandet kor a cappella, som jeg komponerede i 2009-10.

December 2022, Per Drud Nielsen

The Fly

Tekst: William Blake
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Allegro vivace ♩ = app. 106

mp

Lit-tle Fly thy sum-mers play, my thought-less hand has brush'd a-way.

mp

This system contains the first four measures of the song. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro vivace' with a quarter note equal to approximately 106 beats per minute. The dynamic is mezzo-piano (*mp*).

poco rit.

Am not I a fly like thee? Or art not thou a man like me?

poco rit.

This system contains the next four measures. The tempo is marked 'poco rit.' (slightly ritardando). The piano accompaniment includes a repeat sign at the end of the system.

Un poco ritenuto, tempo di valse ♩ = app. 64

mf

For I dance and drink and sing, till

mf

This system contains the final four measures of the song. The tempo is marked 'Un poco ritenuto, tempo di valse' with a quarter note equal to approximately 64 beats per minute. The dynamic is mezzo-forte (*mf*). The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The piano accompaniment includes a repeat sign at the end of the system.

Tempo I
♩ = app. 106

some blind hand shall brush my wing. If

mp

rit.

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of a musical piece. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are "some blind hand shall brush my wing. If". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The right-hand part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left-hand part provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *rit.* (ritardando) markings.

thought is life and strength and breath, — and the want of thought is death;

mp

Detailed description: This system contains the next four measures of the musical piece. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "thought is life and strength and breath, — and the want of thought is death;". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns as the first system. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

then am I a hap - py fly, — if I live, or if I die.

poco rit.

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures of the musical piece. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics "then am I a hap - py fly, — if I live, or if I die.". The piano accompaniment concludes with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns. The dynamic marking *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) is present.

Tempo II

♩ = app. 64

mf

For I dance and drink and sing, till

mf

some blind hand shall brush my wing.

rit.

Tempo I

♩ = app. 106

mf

Then am I a hap - py fly, — if I live, or if I die.

mf

senza rit.

My Pretty Rose Tree

Tekst: William Blake
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Quasi un siciliano ♩ = app. 46

mp

A flo - wer was of - fer'd to me; _____ such a flo - wer as May ne - ver

bore. _____ But I said: "I have a Pret - ty Rose - tree", _____ and I

poco rit. *a tempo*

passed the sweet flo - wer o - ver. _____ Then I

went to my Pret - ty Rose - tree; _____ to tend her by day and by

ritenuto e espressivo *p* *a tempo* *mp*

night. _____ But my Rose turn'd a - way with jea - lou - sy, _____ and her

ritenuto e espressivo *a tempo* *p* *mp*

poco rit.

thorns were my on - ly de - light. _____

poco rit.

Ah! Sun-flower

Tekst: William Blake
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Larghetto molto tranquillo ♩ = app. 46

p

Ah Sun - flo - wer wea - ry of time, who

p sempre legato

The first system of the musical score for 'Ah! Sun-flower'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the lyrics 'Ah Sun - flo - wer wea - ry of time, who'. The piano accompaniment is marked *p sempre legato*. The music is in 6/8 time and B-flat major.

cresc. poco a poco al mf

count - est the steps of the Sun, seek - ing af - ter that sweet gol - den

cresc. poco a poco al mf

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'count - est the steps of the Sun, seek - ing af - ter that sweet gol - den'. The piano accompaniment is marked *cresc. poco a poco al mf*. The music continues in 6/8 time and B-flat major.

mf

clime where the tra - vel - ler's jour - ney is done. Where the

mf

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'clime where the tra - vel - ler's jour - ney is done. Where the'. The piano accompaniment is marked *mf*. The music concludes in 6/8 time and B-flat major.

Youth pined a - way with de - sire, and the pale Vir - gin shroud - ed in

snow: a - rise from their graves and a -

p *cresc. poco a poco al mf*

p *cresc. poco a poco al mf*

spire, where the Sun - flo - wer wish - es to go, where the

mf

tra - vel - ler's jour - ney is done.

mf *p*

rit.

p *pp*

con bocca chiusa

rit. *pp*