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Sexton Songs

for Soprano and Piano or optional Chamber Ensemble

to Velina Brown

Anne Sexton

I. Rowing

David Conte

With a flourish, quasi recitativo

Soprano

f A sto-ry, a sto-ry! *p* (tossed off)
(Let it go. Let it come.)

Piano

With a flourish, quasi recitativo

Moderately fast, slightly jazzy,
always rhythmic ♩ = 116

4

mf I was stamped out — like a

Moderately fast, slightly jazzy,
always rhythmic ♩ = 116

7

f Ply-mouth fen-der in-to this world.

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II. Her Kind

Moderate "blues" feel
♩ = 92

Piano

mf

4

mf

I — have gone out, a poss-

(l.h. quasi string bass pizz.)

7

essed witch, haunt - ing the black air, — brav - er at night;

10

dream - ing e - vil. — I have done my hitch — o - ver the plain hous - es,

III. Ringing the Bells

Moderately, heavy and deliberate

Piano

f

(Ped.) sempre marcato

sim.

4

7

f

And this is the way they ring the bells in

* *Ped.*

10

Bed - lam — and this is the bell-lad-y — who comes each Tues-day

* *Ped.*

12

morn - ing — to give us a mu - sic les - son — and be -

Ped. * *Ped.*

IV. Riding the Elevator into the Sky

Moderately, rubato
♩ = 76

Soprano

Moderately, rubato
♩ = 76

mf

As the fire-man said: — Don't book a room o-ver the

Piano

mf *p*

5

fifth floor in an - y ho - tel in New York. — They have lad - ders —

mf *mp*

9

— that will reach fur - ther but no - one will climb them. — *rall.*

mf *rall.*

V. Us

Very moderately, flexible ♩ = 66

mf

I was wrapped in

Very moderately, flexible ♩ = 66

mf

mp

5

A bit more motion, sultry

♩ = 72

ten.

black fur and white fur and you un did me

A bit more motion, sultry

♩ = 72

mp

10

and then you placed me in