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Merrill Songs

for High Voice and Piano

James Merrill

Daron Hagen

1. A Downward Look

Weightless, floating ♩ = 54 *mp legato*

Voice Seen from a -

8va -----

Piano *mp legato*

6

bove, the sky _____ Is deep. Clouds float down there, —

11

_____ Foam on a long, lux - ur - i - ous bath. _____

8va -----

poch. rit. a tempo

poch. rit. a tempo

2. body

Allegretto ♩ = 108

Voice

Piano *mf legato*

5 *mf legato*

Look close-ly at the let-ters. Can you see, — enter-ing (stage — right), then

8

float-ing full, then head-ing off—so soon—how like a lit-tle kohl-rimmed moon o plots her course from b to

11

d — as y, un-an-swered, knocks at the stage door?

3. The Instilling

$\text{♩} = 56$ *p legato*

Voice

All day from high _____ with-in the skull - _____ Dome of a Pan -

Piano

p legato

5

- the-on, tre-panned _____ - light shines_ In - to the bo- dy. _____ Down _____ that -

9

stair Some-times there's fog: _____ *mp* o - paque red drop-lets check The beam.

mp

13

Some - times tall red-wood-ten-doned glades Come _____ and go, whose dwel-lers

4. On the Block: Mantel Clock, Imitation Sèvres

Allegretto ♩ = 108

rit. a tempo

mp legato

Voice

Piano

f legato

dim. *rit.* *p* a tempo

Time, pass-ing, glanc-es at the

5

clock Per-haps with pi-ty— who's to say?

9

Still rose and or-mo-lu, its hands — Clasped — in dis-

sim.

5. Vol. XLIV, No. 3

Freely effusive, but not slow ♩ = 69

Voice

f 3

Room _ set at in - fra - red, Mind _ at ul - tra - vio - let,

Piano

pp crystalline *l.v.*

8va

5

p *f* *legato* 3

Or - ga - ni - sms ev - er stran - ger, Hal - lu - ci - nat - ed on the slide, fluo - resce:

8va

*

Red.

9

p *f* 3 3

Chains of gold tin - sel, bau - bles of green fire For the ar - ter - i - al branch - es

l.v.

*

6. On the Block: *Lamp, Terracotta Base, US, ca. 1925*

Allegro ♩. = 138

Voice 

Piano *ff* 

(Ped.) — *

4 *f* *intensivo* 

15ma ₁ 

8va ₁ 

7 

- pon my whats and whys A - no - ther one should flick - er



7. Pledge

Music Score for "7. Pledge"

System 1:

- Tempo:** $\text{♩} = 54$ (initially), $\text{♩} = 108$ (starting at measure 2)
- Key Signature:** Two sharps (F# and C#)
- Time Signature:** 4/4 (initially), 3/4 (measures 3-4), 4/4 (measures 5-6)
- Voice:** *f* (forte), triplets, accents. Lyrics: "House on a - lert. Sun set-ting in a blaze Of"
- Piano:** *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *p* (piano), *l.v.* (left hand). Includes *8va* (octave up) markings.

System 2 (Measures 5-6):

- Tempo:** $\text{♩} = 54$
- Voice:** triplets. Lyrics: "in-sight kiss - es book and bud - vase Where they hurt."
- Piano:** *mp* to *p*, *l.v.*

System 3 (Measures 9-10):

- Tempo:** $\text{♩} = 108$, *f* (forte)
- Voice:** triplets. Lyrics: "Did the page - turn - er yawn and slack - en, Or an o - men flip by un -"
- Piano:** *l.v.*

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8. An Upward Look

Nobile, con dignit  $\text{♩} = 54$

f legato

Voice

O heart green a - cre sown with

Piano

ff *dim.* *f* legato

6

3

salt by the de-part - ing oc - cu - pier lay down your gal - lant spears of

11

3

wheat Salt of the earth each stel - lar pinch flung in blind de -