

Four Songs

I. Three Friends

Yoruba

Ben Hoadley © 2015

Moderato, quasi recit.

mf

Mezzo-soprano

I had three friends One asked me mat One asked me ground One asked me to sleep on his
to sleep on the to sleep on the

p 3

Moderato, quasi recit.

Piano

mf

chromatic cluster

5 **Moderato assai**

M-S.

breast

Moderato assai

Pno.

mp

5 5 5 6 6 6 6

ped.

7 *mp*

M-S.

I saw my-self car-ried on a ri - ver I saw my-self car-ried on a

Pno.

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

Four Songs

10

M-S. *ri - 6 - ver*

Pno.

12

M-S. *I saw the king of the ri - ver*

Pno.

14

M-S. *poco cresc.* *I saw the king of the ri-ver and the king of the sun*

Pno. *poco cresc.* *poco allarg.*

Four Songs

16 *mf*

M-S. *mf*

There in that coun-try I saw palm trees so la-den with

Pno. *mf*

18

M-S.

fruit That the trees bent un-der the fruit

Pno.

poco dim. *mf*

Ped.

20

M-S.

And the fruit— killed it

Pno.

II. Lament

Akan

Ben Hoadley

Poco lento, con tenerezza

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

pp molto dolce

p legatissimo, canto (ma dolce)

4

M-S.

Pno.

7

M-S.

Pno.


p

Your death has taken
me by surprise

(wait for
singer)

Four Songs

10 *mp molto dolce*

M-S. 

What were your wares _____ That they sold out so quick-ly?

Pno. 


13 **Poco più mosso**

M-S. 


When I meet my fa - - ther, _____

Pno. **Poco più mosso** 

15 *mf* **sprechstimme** *(mf)*

M-S. 

— he'll hard - ly re - cog - nize me: He'll find me car-ry-ing all I've got A

Pno. 

Four Songs

17

M-S.

torn old sleep-ing mat and a horde of flies

Pno.

f

p piangevole

19

M-S.

Tempo I

Pno.

Tempo I

22

M-S.

The night is fast approaching Somewhere a child mo - ther is crying out for its

Pno.

pp poco ten.

(wait for singer)

(wait for singer)

8^{vb}

III. The Little Bird

Folk Song - Gabon

Ben Hoadley

Andantino
mp

Mezzo-soprano

Ear-ly one mor-ning I got up to pick o-ran-ges in the gar-den.

Piano

M-S.

And I saw this. I saw the ri-sing sun and the lit-tle bird

Pno.

M-S.

sin-ging his mor-ning song.

Pno.

cantabile

Four Songs

10

M-S. *And I heard this.*

Pno.

8^{va}

12

M-S. *The lit-tle bird cried "Cui*

Pno. *rapido* *f* *mf*

14

M-S. *cui cui! Please leave my lit-tle ones in their nest. Cui cui cui!" And I said this:* (quasi recit) *mp*

Pno.

16

M-S. *First I cried "Cui cui cui!" And then I said this. "Don't be a-fraid*

Pno. *mp* *tr*

Four Songs

19

M-S. *I am your friend." And what was asked I did.*

Pno. *tr* *8va* *7* *8va* *8^{vb}*

21

M-S. *mf* *Since that day— the lit-tle bird is my friend and his song gives me great plea - sure.*

Pno. *tr*

23

M-S. *And that is my sto-ry.*

Pno. *(tr)* *cantabile* *3*

25

M-S.

Pno. *mf* *3* *5* *3* *5* *Ped.* *8^{vb}*

IV. Death

Kuba

Ben Hoadley

Moderato, quasi recit. **Lento**

mf (◡) (◡)

Mezzo-soprano

There is no needle without pier-cing point. There is no tren-chant blade razor without Death comes

Moderato, quasi recit. **Lento**

Piano

mf *mp*

chromatic clusters

4 **Allegro moderato** *mf* 3

M-S.

in ma-ny forms. With our feet

Allegro moderato

Pno.

mf molto marcato

7 3

M-S.

we walk the goat's earth With our hands we touch God's sky

Pno.

Four Songs

10

M-S. *poco pesante*

Pno.

14

M-S. *f pesante*

Pno.

16

M-S. *f* *f*

Pno.

18

M-S. *f*

Pno.

Four Songs

19

M-S. I fear the drip - ping wa - ter

Pno.

20

M-S. Bu-ry me un-der the great shade trees in the

Pno. *ff*

Molto tenuto
tutti forza

Molto tenuto

22

M-S. mar - ket I want to feel the dan - cers feet

Pno. *mf*

Vivo, poco accel. a fine

23

M-S. I want to hear the beat - ing of the drums

Pno. *fff*

8va