

Delights & Shadows

FOUR SONGS FOR BASS VOICE AND PIANO

POEMS BY Ted Kooser
MUSIC BY Takuma Itoh

Delights & Shadows

Bass (Voice Range: D2 – D4)
Piano

Duration: 9 minutes

Delights and Shadows is a set of four songs for the bass voice and piano. The poems are taken from a collection of the same name by Ted Kooser, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005.

Mr. Kooser is one of Nebraska's most highly regarded poets and served as the United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004 - 2006. After spending many years as an insurance representative for the Lincoln Benefit Life, he is now a professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the author of eleven full-length collections of poetry, as well as plays, fiction, personal essays, and literary criticism.

Mr. Kooser's poems are characterized by a prose-style writing that is simple, clear, and accessible. The poems he chooses to write about are usually from the ordinary, everyday world. Yet, he manages to reveal something remarkable about them all, making us feel nostalgic or giving us appreciation for what many would consider commonplace and mundane.

Tattoo

What once was meant to be a statement –
a dripping dagger held in the fist
of a shuddering heart – is now just a bruise
on a bony old shoulder, the spot
where vanity once punched him hard
and the ache lingered on. He looks like
someone you had to reckon with,
strong as a stallion, fast and ornery,
but on this chilly morning, as he walks
between the tables at a yard sale
with the sleeves of his tight black T-shirt
rolled up to show us who he was,
he is only another old man, picking up
broken tools and putting them back,
his heart gone soft and blue with stories.

Happy Birthday

This evening, I sat by an open window
and read till the light was gone and the book
was no more than a part of the darkness.
I could easily have switched on a lamp,
but I wanted to ride this day down into night,
to sit alone and smooth the unreadable page
with the pale gray ghost of my hand.

Walking on Tiptoe

Long ago we quit lifting our heels
like the others – horse, god, and tiger –
though we thrill to their speed
as they flee. Even the mouse
bearing the great weight of a nugget
of dog food is enviably graceful.
There is little spring to our walk,
we are so burdened with responsibility,
all of the disciplinary actions
that have fallen to us, the punishments,
the killings, and all with our feet
bound stiff in the skins of the conquered.
But sometimes, in the early hours,
we can feel what it must have been like
to be one of them, up on our toes,
stealing past doors where others are sleeping,
and suddenly able to see in the dark.

Starlight

All night, this soft rain from the distant past.
No wonder I sometimes waken as a child.

Delights and Shadows

Tattoo

Text: Ted Kooser

Takuma Itoh
(2007)

$\text{♩} = 69$ Defiant

mf

Voice: (spoken) What was once meant to be a statement—

Piano: *ff* *mf* *pp*

3 *mf*: (sung) dri-ping dagger held— in the fist of a

Pno. *p* *f* *p* *f*

6 shu-dder-ing heart— (spoken) is now just

Pno. *p* *f* *mp* *mf*

8 a bruise on a bo - ny shoul-der, (sung) the spot—

Pno. *pp* *f* *p*

Tattoo

11

— where va - - ni - ty —

Pno.

6 6 6

Leo. Leo. Leo. mp

8va ff

20. 20. 20.

13 f

va - - ni - ty once

Pno.

20.

14

punched him hard — and the ache lin - gered —

Pno.

20. 20.

16 p

on

Pno.

5 5

20. 20.

18

Pno.

Tattoo

20

Pno.

22

Pno.

24

Pno.

He looks like some - one you had to re - ckon — with, you had to

f

p

f

mp

f

mp

f

ff

Tattoo

28 ***ff***

Pno.

re - ckon—— with re - ckon with,——

Pno.

31 ***f***

strong as a sta - llion,——

Pno.

p ***Rwd.***

33

strong as a sta - llion,——

Pno.

f ***Rwd.***

35 ***mf***

fast and or - ner - y,——

Pno.

Rwd. ***Rwd.*** ***Rwd.*** ***Rwd.*** ***Rwd.***

37

fast and or - ner - y —

Pno.

f

f

Reo. *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.*

39

p

pp *p*

Reo.

(keep pedal down)

42

chi - lly mor -ning, — as he walks be - tween — the ta - bles at a yard - - - sale

Pno.

p

mf

45

with the sleeves — of his tight black T - shirt rolled up to show us who he

(gradually slow down trill)

Pno.

pp

ppp

Reo. *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* (E)

Tattoo

6
48

Tattoo

was — He is

Pno.

51

on - - - ly a - no-ther-old man,

with rubato

Pno.

53

pi-cking up bro - ken tools and putt - ing them back-

Pno.

55

his heart gone soft and blue with sto -

Pno.

(r.h.)

59

Pno.

ries

p

Rit.

(D)

Happy Birthday

$\text{♩} = 54$ With Rubato

Atmospheric, Freely

Molto Rubato

Piano

Voice

This eve - ning, I sat by an

$\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$
U.C. (throughout this entire movement)

3

Pno.

o - pen win - dow and read — till the light was — gone

p

$\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$ $\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$

6

Pno.

and the book was no more than a port of dark - ness. I could

$\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$ $\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$ $\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$

9

Pno.

ea - si - ly have switched on a lamp,

pp

$\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$ $\text{R\acute{e}\acute{o}}$

Walking on Tiptoe

$\text{♩} = 92$ Quiet, yet Urgent

Piano

The musical score consists of four staves of music for piano and voice. The piano parts are in treble and bass clef, with dynamics like *fp*, *poco*, *pp*, *mp*, *sffz*, *fp*, *p*, *mf*, *p sub.*, and *pp*. The vocal part includes lyrics: "Long ago we quit lifting our heels like the others", "horse, dog, and tiger though we thrill to their speed as they", and "Red. Red. Red.". Measure numbers 1 through 7 are indicated at the beginning of each staff.

legato

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

poco

pp *mp* *sffz* *pp*

p

mf

p

p sub.

pp

Long ago we quit lifting our heels like the others —

horse, dog, and tiger though we thrill to their speed as they

Red. Red. Red.

9

flee.

Pno. *f* *p sub.* *mf*

Reo.

11

p

E - ven the mouse *gva* bear - ing the -

Pno. *p sub.*

Reo. *Reo.*

12

mp *3*

great weight — of a nu - gget of dog food — is en - via - bly

Pno.

Reo.

14

mf *p*

grace - ful.

(l.h.)

pp *6* *6* *6*

6 mf *6*

Pno.

Walking on Tiptoe

16 *mp*

Pno.

There is li - little spring to our

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

Le. Le. Le. Le. Le. Le.

18 *mf*

walk, we are so

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

Le. Le. Le. Le.

20 *p*

bur - dened with res - pon - si - bi - li - ty,

pp

Le. Le.

22 *f*

all of the di - sci - pli - na - ry ac -

f

Le. Le.

24 *ff*

tions that have fa - llen to us,

Pno.

26 *f*

the pu - nish - ments, the ki - llings, and all with our feet bound

Pno.

28 *mp ff Rit.*

stiff in the skins of the con - quered, con - quered, con - quered,

Pno.

31 *A Tempo p*

But

Pno.

Walking on Tiptoe

Rit.

33

some - - - times, ————— in the ear - ly hou - rs, —————

Pno.

 $\text{♩} = 72$ Slightly Slower, With Rubato

35

we can feel ————— what it must have been like ————— to be

Pno.

Rit.

Rit.

Rit.

38

one of them, ————— up on our toes, —————

Pno.

Rit.

Rit.

Rit.

40

stea - ling past doors where o - thers are slee - - - ping, —————

Pno.

Rit.

Rit.

42

pp

and su - dden - ly a - ble to see in the

Pno.

2.
3.
4.
8.
3.
4.
3.
4.
Reo.

44

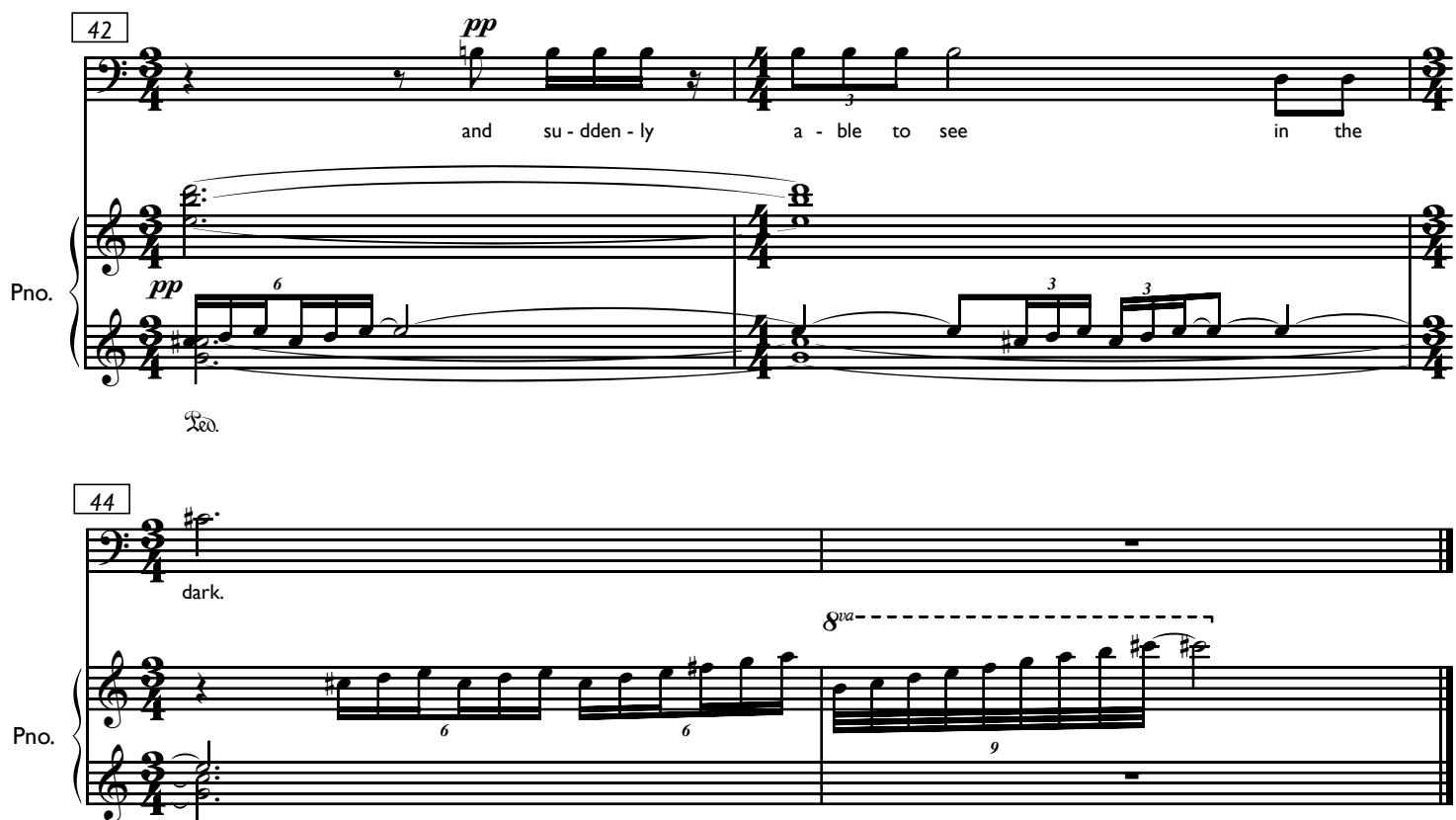
dark.

8va

Pno.

3.
4.
6.
6.
9.

#



Starlight

Cascading; Rubato and Legato Throughout

$\text{♪} = 60$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$
blur throughout; nothing should stick out unless otherwise noted

Piano

$\text{♪} = 60$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$
rit. - - - -

U.C. throughout rhythms in the left hand should NOT precisely line up with the rhythms of the right hand

Pno.

$\text{♪} = 80$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$
rit. - - - -

rit. - - - - $\text{♪} = 80$ Voice All

Pno.

$\text{♪} = 80$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$
rit. - - - - $\text{♪} = 80$ Voice All

rit. - - - - $\text{♪} = 80$ Voice All

4

$\text{♪} = 92$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$

night, - - - - All

Pno.

$\text{♪} = 92$ accel. - - - - $\text{♪} = 144$

All

rit. - - - - $\text{♪} = 80$ Voice All

5

night, ————— this soft ————— rain ————— from the dis tant

Pno.

6 6 6

6 6 6

7

past. ————— soft rain dist —————

Pno.

10 10 10

10 10 10

9

tant past. ————— the past. —————

Pno.

10 10 10

10 10 10

11

No won - - - der —————

Pno.

9 9 9

10 10 10

10 10 10

11 11 11

Starlight

13

No won - der - - - - - I some - times wa - - - ken - - - No

Pno.

15

won - - - - - der No won - der - - - - - I

Pno.

17

some - times wa - - - ken - - - as a

Pno.

18

child. bring out

Pno.

Pno.

bring out
Reo. Reo. Reo. Reo. 6 6 6

Pno.

Reo. 6 6 Reo.

24

p

All night,

8va

Pno.

mf 3 3 3 3 p

Reo.

25

this

(8va)

pp

Pno.

Reo.

26

soft
(8va)

Pno.

rain——

27

from the dis - tant past.

Pno.

3

28

No won - der— I some - times—

Pno.

pp p
loco 5

29

wa - - ken— as a

Pno.

pp p
5

31

as a

Pno.

pp p
5

33

child.

$\text{♪} = 60$ accel. $\text{♪} = 144$ rit.

Pno. pp p

$\text{♪} = 80$ accel. $\text{♪} = 144$ rit.

Pno. pp p

$\text{♪} = 80$ accel. $\text{♪} = 120$ rit.

Pno. pp p

gradually slow down until coming to a complete stop

Pno. pp

ped.