

Drowned

for

mezzo-soprano and piano

Text by
Carl Sandburg

Music by
Joe L. Alexander

Dr. Joe L. Alexander
4434 Plumtree Lane
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

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Drowned

for

Soprano & Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Joe L. Alexander composed *Drowned* in March of 2002 as his response to the Alabama Composer/Writer Partnership's call for new works. The partnership was funded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and was conceived by the Birmingham Art Music Alliance. Its goal was to have living Alabama composers set to music the works of living Alabama writers. I selected my friend and fellow Tuscaloosan, Alan May, for my collaboration. *Drowned* was premiered on April 16, 2002 at Wright Recital Hall on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Dewin Tibbs was the singer, and Chris Griffin played piano. Before the premiere, the poet spoke about the creative process while writing the poem. The text "Drowned" first appeared in a literary journal called *Yemassee* and was published in a chapbook called *Light Coming through the Shape of the Moon* by the *Wing and the Wheel Press*.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Accidentals apply only to the octave in which they are written and remain in effect for the measure unless cancelled out by another accidental..

DURATION

c. 5:00

Dr. Joe L. Alexander
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Music
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Text
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Drowned

I watch the old men drag the lake
the one man loses the dark tip
of his oar again and again

I think of my sister's hair
drying in the sun
my neighbor hanging

her was at night
the lantern swings low
across the water

the one man loses the dark tip of his oar
again and again
as a boy I'd dive from the pier

I was told that undertakers
cut and sell the hair of the dead
my neighbor hums to herself

in the dark
the water rises
the old men have the boy

by the ankle
the drowned are coming
they are taking us home

Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

Drowned

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♩ = 76 funeral dirge

mezzo-soprano

mp

I watch the old men

Piano

legato

p

pp

leg. *simile* *leg.* *simile*

6

drag the lake _____ the one man lo - ses the dark tip _____ of his

3

11

oar _____ a - gain _____ and a - gain _____

11

mf

Sost. Ped.

p

16

I think of my sis-ters - hair - - - dry - ing - in the

mf no Ped

pp

leg. *simile*

21

gliss

sun - - - - -

21

mf

27

mf

3 3

my neigh-bor hang - - - ing - her wash - at night - - - the lan - tern swings

27

p

32

f

3

low - a-cross the wa - ter - the one man - lo-sets the dark tip - of his oar -

32

37 *mf*
 a - gain and a - gain as a boy I'd dive from the

no Ped *f* *p* *mf*
 Sost. Ped *mf* *p* *mf*
 Rec.

42 *mp*
 pier I was told that

mf *f* *p*
 Sost. Ped *mf* *f* *p*
 Rec.

48 *mf*
 un - - - der - ta - kers cut and sell the hair of the dead

mf *f* *p*
 Sost. Ped *mf* *f* *p*
 Rec.

52 *mf*
 my neigh - bor hums to her - self in the dark the wa - ter ri -

f *p* *mf* *p*
 no Ped *f* *p* *mf* *p*
 Rec. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
 Sost. Ped *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
 simile

56

ses the old men row towards shore the one man lo-ses the dark tip

56

p *f* 3 *p* *f* 3 *p*

And. *simile*

61

of his oar the old men have the boy by the an -

61

f *cresc.* 3

Sost. Ped. *And.* *simile*

66

kle the drowned are com - ing

66

ff *mf* 3

71

a tempo 3 *rit. al fine*

they are ta - king us home

71

a tempo *f* *p* *rit. al fine*

Sost. Ped. *And.*

The composer welcomes any questions concerning *Drowned* and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances. Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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