

Two Bryant Songs

for
Soprano, Bb Clarinet & Piano

Text by
William Cullen Bryant

Music by
Joe L. Alexander

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Two Bryant Songs

INSTRUMENTATION

Soprano
Bb Clarinet
Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Two Bryant Songs

Song (These Prairies Glow with Flowers)

November

Song (These Prairies Glow with Flowers) was composed in June of 1994 for the Long Island Composers Alliance's Bicentennial Composition Competition and Concert in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great American poet, William Cullen Bryant. It was premiered by Barbara Mathis (soprano), Kim Ellis (clarinet) and Melanie Foster-Taylor (piano) on September 9, 1994 at Lamar University's fall faculty recital. The composer had just started teaching at Lamar University when Dr. Mathis asked if he had composed a song for her voice range because she wanted to use the performance as a way to introduce the composer to the students. The performance was well received and Dr. Mathis asked the composer to write an additional song for a later performance. The second song, *November*, was premiered on Lamar University's *LAMARISSIMO Concert Series* on William Cullen Bryant's 200th birthday, November 3, 1994.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The score is written at concert pitch. Accidentals remain in effect for the measure unless otherwise notated.

DURATION

Song (These Prairies Glow with Flowers)

C. 4:00

November

C. 3:50

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Song

(These Prairies Glow with Flowers)

Soprano, Bb Clarinet & Piano

Joe L. Alexander

♩ = 84

Soprano

Bb Clarinet

Piano

mf

Sop.

Clar.

Piano

These prairies glow with flowers, These groves are tall and fair, The

p

legato

Sop.

Clar.

Piano

sweetlay of the mock-ing-bird Rings in the morn-ing air; And

mf

mf

2 11

Sop. yet I pine to see My na - tive hill once more, And hear the spar - rows friend - ly chirp—

Clar. 11 *p* *mp*

Piano *legato* *p* *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 11 to 13. The Soprano part begins with a melodic line in G minor, with lyrics: "yet I pine to see My na - tive hill once more, And hear the spar - rows friend - ly chirp—". The Clarinet part starts with a whole note G4, followed by a melodic line in measure 12, marked *p* and *mp*. The Piano part features a *legato* accompaniment, with a *p* dynamic in measure 11 and *mp* in measure 12.

14

Sop. Be side the cot - tage door—

Clar. 14 *f*

Piano *8va* *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 14 to 16. The Soprano part has a long note in measure 14, followed by the lyrics "Be side the cot - tage door—". The Clarinet part has a whole rest in measure 14, then a melodic line in measure 15 marked *f*, and another whole rest in measure 16. The Piano part features an *8va* accompaniment in measure 14, marked *mp*, and remains silent in the following measures.

17

Sop.

Clar. 17 *f* *legato*

Piano *8va* *f* *legato* *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 17 to 19. The Soprano part has whole rests. The Clarinet part has a whole rest in measure 17, then a melodic line in measure 18 marked *f* and *legato*, and a long melodic phrase in measure 19. The Piano part features an *8va* accompaniment in measure 17, marked *f*, and a *legato* accompaniment in measure 18, with a *f* dynamic in measure 19.

20

Sop.

Clar.

Piano

f

23

Sop.

Clar.

Piano

mf

mf

legato

And he, for whom I left my Na-tive hill and brook, A -

26

Sop.

Clar.

Piano

lass, I some-times think I trace _____ A cold-ness in his look! _____

legato

mp

mf

legato

mf

30 *mf*

Sop. *mf* If I have lost his lo - ve, I

Clar. *mf* *p*

Piano *mf* *p* *cresc.*

33 *mp* *rubato*

Sop. know my heart will break; And hap - ply, they I left for him. will sor - row for my sake. *rubato*

Clar. *mp* *rubato*

Piano *mp* *rubato*

36 *rit.*

Sop. *rit.*

Clar. *legato* *p* *rit.* *pp*

Piano *legato* *p* *rit.* *pp*

Sop -----

for Barbara Mathis
November
Soprano, Bb Clarinet & Piano

Joe L. Alexander

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) features a tempo marking of quarter note = 52. The Soprano and Bb Clarinet parts are mostly rests, while the Piano part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with a *mp* dynamic. The second system (measures 4-7) shows the Clarinet and Piano parts with *mf* dynamics and a crescendo. The Soprano part remains a rest. The third system (measures 8-11) includes the vocal line with lyrics: "Yet one smile more de-part-ing dis-tant sun!". The Clarinet part is marked *legato* and *mf*, while the Piano part is *mp*. The score concludes with a *sfz* dynamic in the Piano part.

2 ¹² *mf*

Sop. *mf*
One mel - low smile through the soft

Clar. *pp*

Piano *sfz*

15

Sop. vap - 'ry air

Clar. *f* legato

Piano *mf*

18

Sop.

Clar.

Piano *f* *ff*

No pedal

21 *mp*
Sop. Ere o'er the fro - zen earth the
Clar. *f* *p*
Piano *Red.* * *Red.* *

24 *f*
Sop. loud winds run or snows are sift - ed o'er the mead - ows bare. One
Clar. *mf* *p* *mf*
Piano *pp*

27 *mf*
Sop. smile on the brown hills and na - ked trees, and the dark rocks whose sum - mer wreath are
Clar. *p*
Piano *p* *Red.* * *Red.* *

Sop. *cast* _____ And the blue gen - tian flower _____ that

Clar. *mf*

Piano *Red. * simile*

Sop. in the breeze, _____ Nods on - ly of her beau - te - ous race the last. _____

Clar. *f*

Piano

Sop. *rit.* *mp* Yet

Clar. *rit.* *mf*

Piano *ff* *rit.*

A Tempo *f*

Sop. 39
 one rich smile — and we will try to bear the pierc - ing win - ter frost,

Clar. 39 A Tempo
p white note cluster

Piano A Tempo
p *ff*
 red. black note cluster

42 10" *mp* *rit.*

Sop. Let Sound Die and winds — and dark - ened air.

Clar. 42 10" *p.rit.*

Piano 42 10" *rit.* *mf*

Inside piano
 Strike Bass Strings with Palm
 red.



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

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Song

(These Prairies Glow with Flowers)

Soprano, Bb Clarinet & Piano

Joe L. Alexander

Bb Clarinet

♩ = 84

mf

6

Clar. p mf

11

Clar. p mp f

16

Clar. f legato

21

Clar. f mf legato

26

Clar. mf legato

31

Clar. mf p mp rubato

36

Clar. p legato rit. pp

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the Bb Clarinet part of a song. The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 84 beats per minute. It consists of eight staves of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36). The music is in a key with one flat (Bb) and features various dynamics including *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, *pp*, and *rit.*. Performance instructions such as *legato* and *rubato* are also present. The notation includes treble clefs, stems, beams, and various note values.

for Barbara Mathis
November
Soprano, Bb Clarinet & Piano

Bb Clarinet

Joe L. Alexander

1 $\bullet = 52$

mf

legato

mf

11 *f* *pp*

15 *f* *f*

23 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

27 *p* *mf*

31 *f*

37 *rit.* *mf* *p* , A Tempo

41 10" *p* *rit.*