

Body and Soul

Volume 2

for soprano, flute, cello, piano

music by Pamela J. Marshall

poems by Elizabeth Kirschner

*Art-Poem-Music collaboration:
visual artist Sirarpi Heghinan Walzer
poet Elizabeth Kirschner
composer Pamela J. Marshall*

PREVIEW

Art-Poem-Music: Body and Soul

About the project

An exciting opportunity arose for me when poet Elizabeth Kirschner contacted me about collaboration in 2006. She enjoys working with composers and her way of combining human and nature imagery really appealed to me. The right project appeared when artist Sirarpi Heghinian Walzer was planning for her next show at the Depot Square Gallery in Lexington, MA. She was planning concerts to take place during her exhibition and there was an opportunity to connect music and words with her art. The exhibition, and the resulting poems and songs, are titled "Body and Soul".

Elizabeth began writing the poems as she studied Sirarpi's paintings and mixed media work. There are over twenty poems. Then I began writing songs. Sirarpi continued to create new works as she heard the new work. The intensity of the words seemed dark to me, at first, but as I lived with this imagery, I began to understand it as a more complete view of being alive, wrapping both suffering and joy, growing and decay, into a sensitive awareness of life.

Volume 1 is for mezzo, violin, viola, and cello. It sets six poems: Touch and Believe, Grace, The Death Drums, Each Stitch, Shattered Sunflowers, and The Grief Tree.

Volume 2 is for soprano, flute, cello and piano, setting three poems: Mulched by Moonlight, O Trill, and The Lost Roots.

I've also set several of the poems for reader and semi-improvised ensemble.

Spindrift Commissioning Guild project for 2007

The following friends and supporters contributed to support Art-Poem-Music: Body and Soul.

Thank you!

Andrea Harrington, artist
Frederic Boutaud of Art Without Borders
Geoff Day

In 2009, Body and Soul Volume 2 received Honorable Mention for the Miriam Gideon Prize from the International Alliance for Women in Music in their Search for New Music competition.

Body and Soul Volume 2

Poems by Elizabeth Kirschner

MULCHED BY MOONLIGHT

How alluring and enduring is
the secret radiance of the soul
so full of melting music
it throbs inside my body
as though it were an ancient bell.
The singing enigmas slip down
silken strands until I'm a figure
fingered by painterly patinas.
Let my soul be wind-spirited,
let my body be the last gold leaf
in a golden autumn humming
with drowsy honey bees which know
the secret sweetness that dwells
inside every shining cell. My soul
is an invisible vase holding tipsy
flowers and my flesh, dear flesh,
is as plush as time rushing into
the infinitudes found in the nut,
the stone, in the heart of every tree
stunted, skeletal, stripped bare
as the breath breathing in an
atmosphere mulched by moonlight
until the luxuries of love
loosely garment me while loveliness
gilds me, tilts me free.

O TRILL

Undoubtedly I will die. Undoubtedly
the petals of my flesh will eddy
in the wellspring. Sprung loose my soul
will envelop frostbitten stars, flying webs
and the tooth and the nail and the tooth
and the nail. Embodied, I will be
embodied by reams of shimmering
veils which will sweep across an earth
suffering its death throes. Undoubtedly
I will die. Undoubtedly the petals
of my flesh will eddy in the wellspring.
Till then, I will sing the song nobody knows
but everybody longs to hear—o trill, o thrill
o will-of-the-wisp trembling notes.

THE LOST ROOTS

Arabesques of air stir into arias
while my botanical body grows stronger
Be limber as light, whispers a God
no bigger than a nightingale. When he sings
colors bleed into petal, seeds, perfumes.
I recover the lost roots which moored me
like an angel on a pinhead. As well,
I remember the rush of whirring wings
slight as ribbons drawn through the aching
acreage of space. My soul is such an acreage
while full-blown flowers orbit this love-
quickened earth. Always beware that the path
we need to walk upon is filmed with black ice
whose shards go deep into our utterly mortal
flesh. Let's be awash with the breath
a singer takes in before she hits a note so gorgeous
the stars vibrate. This, too, our hearts, sweet hearts,
nothing more than the weight of a butterfly
whose wings just now are unfolding.

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Mulched by Moonlight

Andante grazioso $\text{♩} = 68$ *mp*

Soprano

How al-lur - ing and en-dur - ing

Flute

mp

Cello

mp

Piano

Andante grazioso $\text{♩} = 68$

5

is the se - cret ra - - di - ance

9

of my soul so full of melt - - ing mu -

p *mf*

p *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *mp*

p *mp*

mp

mp

mp

Ped.

13

sic it throbs in-side my bo - dy as though it

mp *p*

arco sim. (arco)

mp *pizz.* *p*

17

were an an - cient bell. The sing - ing

mp

mf *mp*

mp *mf*

B

22

e - nig - mas slip down silk - en strands

f *mf*

f *p* *f*

mf *f*

Mulched by Moonlight

28

un - til I'm a fig - ure fin - gered by paint - er - ly pa - ti - nas. _____

mp *mf* *f*

mp *mf*

This system contains measures 28 through 32. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 7/8, then back to 3/4, and finally to 9/8.

33

mf espress.

mf

mf

Ped.

This system contains measures 33 through 36. It features a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Dynamics include *mf espress.* and *mf*. A pedal marking 'Ped.' is present. The time signature is 3/4.

37

Let _____ my soul _____ be

p

p

p

This system contains measures 37 through 40. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Dynamics include *p*. The time signature is 3/4.

Mulched by Moonlight

42 *mf* wind spir - it - ed, *mp* let my bo - dy be the last *mf*

47 gold leaf in an au - tumn hum - ming with drow - sy hon - ey - bees *mp* *p*

52 which know the se - cret sweet - ness that dwells in - side ev' - ry shin - ing cell. *pp* *poco*

Mulched by Moonlight

57 **D** *mf*

My soul _____ is an in - vis - i - ble vase _____ hold - ing

mf

D *mf*

62 *mf* tip - sy flow - ers

mf more and more gently

p

mf

p

66 *mp* and my flesh, dear _____ flesh, _____ is as plush as time rush - ing

pp *mp*

pp *mp*

mp

pp *mp*

pp *mp*

Mulched by Moonlight

71

starkly

in - to the in - fin - i - tudes found in the nut, the stone, in the heart of ev' ry tree stun - ted,

74

warm & whispery

skel - e - tal, stripped bare as the breath breath - ing in

79

E

mp

mf

an at - mos - phere mulched by moon - light un - til the lux - ur - ies

Mulched by Moonlight

83

poco meno mosso

of love loose-ly gar - ments me while love - li -

poco meno mosso

This block contains the musical score for measures 83 to 85. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked *poco meno mosso*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "of love loose-ly gar - ments me while love - li -".

86

ness gilts_ me tilts_ me free.

This block contains the musical score for measures 86 to 88. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked *poco meno mosso*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "ness gilts_ me tilts_ me free.". The piano part includes trills in measures 87 and 88.

O Trill

Flute *mp* **Freely** ♩ = 80 approx.

Fl. *f*

Sop.

Fl. *ff* subito fast ad lib.

Vc.

Pno. *f* clusters, with palm of hand (crash downward with flute, timing approximate)

Sop. *mp*

Fl. *mp* freely, accompanying voice (number of repetitions not important)

Un - doubt - ed - ly I will die.

Vc.

Pno.

13

Sop. Un-doubt-ed-ly the pet-als of my flesh will ed - dy in the well-spring.

Fl. *trb* *trb*

Vc.

Pno.

15

Sop. Sprung loose my soul will en - vel - op frost-bit-ten

Fl. *trb* *trb*

Vc. *pp* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

19

Sop. stars, fly - ing webs and the tooth and the nail

Fl. *3*

Vc. *fp* *f* *pizz.*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

O Trill

21

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

and the tooth and the nail.

arco pizz. arco gl.

mf *f* *f*

23

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

Em - bo -

gliss. over harmonics, freely

mp *mf* *p* *pp* *mp*

28

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

died, I will be em - bo - died by reams of

gliss. over harmonics, freely

mp *mf* *espressivo*

O Trill

31

Sop. shim - mer - ing veils _____ which _____ will sweep a - cross an earth

Fl. gliss. over harmonics, occasionally

Vc. *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

34

Sop. suf - fer - ing its death throes.

Fl. timing approx. (long) *ff* *mf* *tr*

Vc. ricochet, poco col legno, timing approx. (long) *f* *mf*

Pno. clusters, with palm of hand, timing approx. *f* *fff*

poco rit. . . .

38

Sop.

Fl. *tr* *mp* *tr*

Vc. *mp*

Pno.

O Trill

43

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

tr

accel.

gl.

f

mf

timing approx.

46

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

Un - doubt - ed - ly I will die.

a tempo

tr

tr

tr

mp freely, accompanying voice
(number of repetitions not important)

gl.

(piano tacet to end)

47

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Un-doubt-ed-ly the pet-als of my flesh will ed - dy in the

O Trill

48

Sop. *p* well-spring. Till then, I *f* will sing the song, sing the

Fl. *tr^b*

Vc. *mp* *pp* *f*

52

Sop. song, no-bo-dy knows but ev'-ry-one longs to hear o

Fl.

Vc. *p*

55

Sop. *mp* trill, o thrill,

Fl.

Vc.

59

Sop. *p* o will-of-the-wisp trem-bl-ing notes. *pp* o will-of-the

Fl.

Vc. *p*

O Trill

63

Sop. *wisp* *trem-bl-ing* notes.

Fl. *mp* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

Vc.

63

64

65

66

67

Sop.

Fl. *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

Vc.

67

68

69

70

70

Sop.

Fl. *accel.* *rit.*

Vc.

70

71

72

73

The Lost Roots

Andante $\text{♩} = 66$

Soprano

Flute

Violoncello

Piano

5

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

Ar - a - besques of

11

Sop.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

air stir in - to ar - i - as while my bo - tan - i - cal bo -

mp

Sop. dy grows strong - er.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

Sop. Be lim-ber as light — whis-pers a God — no

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

Sop. big-ger than a night-in-gale. When he sings — col - ors bleed in - to

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

p

The Lost Roots

26

Sop. *mf*
pet - als, seeds, per - fumes. I re-co-ver the lost roots which

Fl.

Vc.

Pno. *mp*

30

Sop. *mp*
moored me like an an - gel on a pin - head. As

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *p*

Pno.

35

Sop. *mp*
well, I re-mem-ber the rush of whir-ring wings slight as rib - bons drawn

Fl.

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

The Lost Roots

39

Sop. through the ach-ing ac - re - age of space. My soul is such an a - cre - age while full-blown

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *mp* *f* *Ped.*

44

Sop. flow-ers or - bit this love quick - ened earth. Al-ways be-ware that the path we

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

49

Sop. need to walk is filled by black ice whose shards go

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

The Lost Roots

53

Sop. deep in - to our ut - ter - ly mor - tal flesh. —

Fl. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

58 *poco piu mosso, breathlessly*
p cresc.

Sop. Let's be a - wash with the breath a sing - er takes in

Fl. *p mp*

Vc. *p mp*

Pno. *p mp mf*

65 *poco rit. al tempo primo*

Sop. be - fore she hits a note so gor - geous the stars vi - brate. mm

Fl. *f mp*

Vc. *mf mp*

Pno. *f mp*

The Lost Roots

71

Sop. *mp* This, too, our

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

77

Sop. hearts, sweet hearts, noth - ing more than the weight of a but - ter - fly

Fl.

Vc.

Pno. *mp*

83

Sop. *poco rit.* whose wings just now are un - fold - ing.

Fl. *p*

Vc. *p* *mp* *poco rit.*

Pno. *mp*

Spindrift Music Company

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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

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Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts
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A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
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"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums
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Marshall



Body and Soul Vol.2