

Preview score

GEMMA **PEACOCKE**

let This Darkness Be a Bell-Tower

for soprano, string quartet, and guitar

Bedford-Stuyvesant, NY and Okains Bay, New Zealand

2020

“let This Darkness Be a Bell Tower”

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875 - 1926)

Quiet friend who has come so far,
feel how your breathing makes more space around you.
Let this darkness be a bell tower
and you the bell. As you ring,
what batters you becomes your strength.
Move back and forth into the change.
What is it like, such intensity of pain?
If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine.
In this uncontainable night,
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,
the meaning discovered there.
And if the world has ceased to hear you,
say to the silent earth: I flow.
To the rushing water, speak: I am.

Sonnets to Orpheus II, 29

Translation by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows, set with permission.

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Performance Note

Soprano

Tone: the vocal tone should be somewhere between folk and straight tone, using light, non-classical vibrato on longer notes and to soften the sound.

Let This Darkness Be a Bell-Tower

GEMMA PEACOCKE

♩=120

1

Soprano

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Guitar

non vib.

mp *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

pizz.

A

12

♩=162

S.

mp *rich, dark tone* *p*

Qui - et Qui - et friend Qui - et

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Gtr.

p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

p *arco* *p*

28

S.

mp *mf*

friend friend who has come so far

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Gtr.

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

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125 *mp* *mf*

S. What is it like _____ such in - ten - si - ty of pain _____

Vln. I non vib. *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. non vib. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Gtr. *mp*

134 *f*

S. of pain _____ of pain _____

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

Gtr. *f* *p*

E

150 *mf* rit. . . .

S. If the drink is bit-ter turn your self ___ to ___ to ___ wine ___

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Gtr. *mp*

161 $\text{♩} = 144$

S. *mp*
 If the drink is bit-ter turn your-self to wine in this un-con-tain-a-ble night this un-con-tain-a-ble night

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Gtr. *mp*

161

F

172 *mp*

S. *mp*
 be the mys-te-ry at the cross-roads

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Gtr. *mp*

172

185 *mf*

S. *mf*
 of your sen-ses the mean-ing dis-cov-ered there

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Gtr. *mf*

185

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237

S. *mp* *f* *mf* *ppp* *vib.*

Vln. I *mp* *vib.*

Vln. II *mp* *ppp* *vib.*

Vla. *mp* *vib.*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Gtr. *mp*

I flow

246

S. *mf* *p* *vib.* speak: __

Vln. I *mf* *p* *vib.*

Vln. II *mf* *mf* *vib.*

Vla. *mf* *mf* *vib.*

Vc. *p*

Gtr. *mf*

To the rush ing_ wat - er

257

S. *mp* *f* *rit. p* speak: __ I am

Vln. I *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *vib.* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *p*

Gtr. *mp* *p* *pp*