

A A R O N S E V E R I N I

CURRENT SONGS

for Soprano and Piano

Three poems by Liuyu Chen

- I. Nothing Falls on the Fisherman's Dream
- II. Myth
- III. Anonymous

Duration: ca. 10 minutes

I. Nothing Falls on the Fisherman's Dream

Soon the sea's colors will lap away
as clouds mount over low ribs of sky.

The fisherman reels his heavy rod and heads home
with empty boxes, feeling content.

Soon the town will warm up,
kitchens clinking, doors swinging,

men arriving. A few human voices rise
as the moon ebbs and the tide wanes.

The last stranded fish let go
of its fortune. It becomes all quiet again.

Soon the night will begin grinding the opaque water,
underneath, currents are warming each other.

No language is adequate for this communication.
Nothing falls on the fisherman's dream.

II. Myth

Restless Gobi dust
Blue-veiled mountains
crouching. Driving,
I search for the Ocean.

There —
Under the white gloved breakers
Currents are throbbing in pain of labor
in the abdomen of ocean.

Over the horizon, lid half-open
A wild man rises, arms flailing
with spears.
A mouth muttering words
with wings.
and plummets into the blazing edge.

Soon, a seagull will bring the lucky word
from the deep, feverish womb.

III. Anonymous

woman wanting
and wanted
your silhouette
disappears as I stare

dissolved in light
a city unbuttoned
wheels counting
and counted

green springs out of gray
crooked crows
carrying messages
from outskirts

what souvenir
are you polishing as
I fear and walk away
yet nearer

night stooped
black water
your silhouette
disappears as I stare

Poems used by permission of Liuyu Chen

Current Songs

I. Nothing Falls On the Fisherman's Dream

Liuyu Chen

Aaron Severini

Calm, with precision ♩ = 50

Soprano

Piano

pp

pp

p

p

5

9

13

Red.

* Red.

* Red.

* Red.

* Red.

A

Soon the sea's col - ors

will lap a - way as clouds mount

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It begins in 3/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 50. The piano part starts with a *pp* dynamic. The score is divided into systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano introduction with a *pp* dynamic and a *Red.* marking. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the piano introduction with a *Red.* marking. The third system (measures 9-12) begins with a section marked **A** and a *p* dynamic. The lyrics 'Soon the sea's col - ors' are written under the soprano line. The piano accompaniment includes triplets and a sextuplet. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues the lyrics 'will lap a - way as clouds mount' and features a change in time signature from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The piano part includes a triplet and a sextuplet. The score concludes with ** Red.* markings.

17 *(p)*

o - ver low ribs of sky. The

Ped. * *Ped.*

20

fish - er - man reels his heav - y rod and heads home with

8va

6

* *Ped.* *

23

emp - ty box - es feel - ing con - tent, con - tent.

(pp)

Ped.

B 27 *(p)* *p* *mf*

Soon the town will warm up,

pp *mf*

Ped. *

31

kitch - ens clink - ing, doors swing - ing,

Ped. *

33

mf men ar - riv - ing *p* *f* A

pp sub.

8^{va} *Ped.* *

C

34

few hu-man voic-es rise as the moon ebbs and the tide wanes. The

mf

8^{va} *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.*

37

> p

last strand-ed fish_ let go of its for - tune, It be-comes all

41

qui - et a - gain.

pp

* *8^{vb}*
Ped.

44

D

Soon the night will be - gin_ grind-ing the o_ paque

p

(8)-----] * *Ped.*

47

wa - ter, un - der-neath, cur-rents are warm - ing_ each o - ther. No

pp

51

lan-guage is ad - e-quate for this com-muni ca- tion.

*

E
54

No - thing_ no - thing_ no - thing

Ped.

* Ped.

*

59

falls on the

Ped.

6

61

fish - er - man's_ dream._

*

Ped.

*

II. Myth

Fast, in time ♩ = 100

The score is divided into several systems:

- System 1:** Piano introduction in 4/4 time. The left hand plays a series of sixteenth-note chords, each marked with a '6' (sexta). The right hand has a few notes, including a triplet and a pedaled note. Dynamics include *f* and *Ped.*
- System 2:** Continues the piano accompaniment. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill and a triplet. Dynamics range from *p* to *ff* to *mp*. Includes *Ped.* and *8^{va}* markings.
- System 3:** Labeled with a boxed 'A'. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with the lyrics: "Rest - less rest - less Go - bi dust". The piano accompaniment continues with sixteenth-note chords marked with '6'. Dynamics include *f*.
- System 4:** The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Blue - veiled moun - - - -". The piano accompaniment continues with sixteenth-note chords marked with '6'. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. A long slur covers the vocal line.

6

tains crouch - ing crouch - ing.

f

f

6 6 6 6

fp

7

6 6 6 6

p *f*

8

B

p

Driv - ing, I search

white-note gliss. always

p sub. *ff* *mp* *p sub.*

tr

tr

8vb

Ped. *

10

for the O - cean O - - - cean

f *tr*

3 3 3 3

13

O - - cean.

p **6** **6** **6** **6**

Ped.

14 **C** *mp* **3**

There There

6 **3** **6** **3** **6**

15

Un - der the white gloved break - ers

p **3** **3** **6**

6 **6** **6**

6 **6** **6**

16

Cur - rents

fp **6** **6** **6**

6 **6** **6**

6 * *Ped.*

17 *p* *f*

Cur - rents are throb - bing

6 6 6 *

18

in pain of la - bor

p sub. *tr* *ff* *mf*

tr

8vb |

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.* *

20

in the ab - do - men of O - cean

p sub.

23 **D**

- - cean. O - ver the ho-ris-on,

f *p* *tr*

* *8vb* |

Red.

27

lid half o - pen A *p*

* Led. * Led.

29

wild man rise - es arms flail-ing with *f*

p *mf* *mf*

* Led. * ^{8^{va}} Led.

31

spears. *mp* A

fff

*

32 **E** precise *mp*

mouth mut-ter-ing words. with wings. and

precise *pp sub.* *mf*

8va *8va*

8vb Ped. *

34 *f*

plum - mets in - to the

mf *8va*

6 6 6 6

8va Ped. 6 6 6 6 *

35 *mp*

blaz - ing edge. Soon,

mf *8va* *fff*

6 6 6 6

8va Ped. 6 6 *

36

Soon, a sea - gull will

p

Ped. * *Ped.* 3 *

37

bring the luck - y word from the deep and feev - er - ish

pp sub. 3 *pp*

Ped. * *Ped.* *

39

womb.

Ped. * *8va*

42

8va *tr*

8va *tr*

*

III. Anonymous

Somber ♩ = 54

fff *mp*

4 *p*

8 *pp*

12

16 *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

20 **A**

p

Wom-an__ want - ing and want - ed your__ sil-hou-ette

25

mp

dis - ap - pears as I__ stare__ dis - solved in

30

light a cit - y un - but - toned wheels__ count - ing__ and count -

B

35

pp *ff*

ed__ green__ springs__ out__ of gray

ppp

39

6 *fff* *pp* 6 6

Ped. *

40

mp

crook - ed crows car - ry - ing mes - sag - es from

3

Ped. *

41

accel. ♩ = 84

out - - - skirts

f sub. *ppp* *ff*

Ped. *

C

44

a tempo

p *p* *f*

what sou-ve-nir are you pol-ish-ing as I fear and

3 3 3 3

pp

8^{vb}
Ped. *

50

> p

walk a - way yet near - er

D

53

58

night stooped black wa-ter

65

your sil-hou-ette dis-ap-pears as I stare I stare