

S t e p h e n M i t t o n

Urban Haiku

For Soprano and Piano

Preview

This score is not authorized for performance! Authorized copies can be purchased at www.stephenmitton.com



D u r a t i o n:
Approx. 10:00

I.

*The night's smooth blackness
illuminates noble stars
like fraud versus truth*

II.

*Melodic grumbles
in sonorous intercourse
with primal snare crack*

III.

*Today we'll just do
some standard remodeling.
My heart's a bit frayed*

IV.

*Both remain lifeless
and know we are discovered,
the robin and I*

V.

*I'm not in the mood
to reconnect with my god,
but maybe next week*

VI.

*For just a moment
I hear rumors of silence,
so I hold my breath*

VII.

*A subtle sparkle
reminds me to lift my eyes.
A field of glitter*

These poems are selections from a year of haiku—one per day—by my friend Nicholas Manning. They remind me that both meaning and beauty can be found in the mundane.

Urban Haiku

1. The night's smooth blackness

Stephen Mitton
(2014, rev. 2021)

Pensively ♩ = 84 *mp*

The night's smooth _____

Piano

p *pp*

6 *rit.* *mp*

black - ness _____ Il -

8 *a tempo* *f*

lum - in - ates _____ no - ble _____ stars _____

mp *f* *luminous!*

11 *mp*

like fraud ver - sus

pp

17 *mf*

truth.

mp *ff* *p*

23 *rit.* (♩ = 40)

pp

2. Melodic grumbles

Impassioned ♩ = 152

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano introduction with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 5-8) includes the vocal entry with the lyrics "Me - lod - ic - grum - bles". The third system (measures 9-12) continues the piano accompaniment and includes the lyrics "in - son - o - rous in - ter - course". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *p*, as well as articulation marks like accents and slurs. A large "Preview" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

14

18

f 3+2+2 *mf* 3+2

Me - lo-dic grum - bles in so-no-rous in-ter-

24

3+2+2 2+3 *f* *ff*

course with pri-mal snare crack.

p *ff* *f* *ff*

3. Standard remodeling

Subdued $\text{♩} = 80$ *poco rall. a tempo*

mp *mf*

To - day we'll just do som stand-ard re - mod-el-ing. My

heart's a bit frayed.

To - day we'll just do som stand - ard re - mod - el - ing.

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

tr *3* *tr* *3* *tr* *3*

4. The robin

Disquieted ♩ = 66

mp
Both re-main life-less

p *mp* *p*

5 *mf* *f*
and know we are dis-cov-ered, the

mp *mf* *p*

9
rob-in and I

mf *cresc.* *f* *p* *mf* *cresc.*

13 *mf* *f*

Both re-main life-less _____ and know we are dis-cov-ered, _____

f *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Ped. ----- *

18 *p*

the rob-in _____ and I _____

dim. *mp* *mf* *p*

22 *poco rall.* -----

mp *pp*

5. I'm not in the mood

Playful ♩ = 50
Always ♩ = ♩

mf languid

2+3

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The vocal line includes lyrics and rests. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *f*. Articulations include accents and slurs. Rhythmic markings include 2+3 and 5:4. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

System 1:
Vocal: I'm not in the mood
Piano: *mf* (treble), *p* (bass)

System 2:
Vocal: I'm not in the
Piano: *mf* (treble), *p* (bass)

System 3:
Vocal: mood to re-con-nect with my god to
Piano: *f* (treble), *p* (bass)

12 *mf* contemplative

re - con - nect with my god to re - con - nect with my god

15 *f*

to re - con - nect with my god

2+3

19 *mp*

I'm not in the mood

2+3

23 2+3

to re - con - nect with my god to

p *mp* *f*

26

re - con - nect with my god, but may - be next week.

mf *mp*

Interlude: Rumors of silence ♩ = 72

p *mf* *p* *pp*

6. For just a moment

Sparsely $\text{♩} = 72$
mf

For just a mo-ment I hear ru-mors of si - lence So _____ I hold my

Slower $\text{♩} = 52$

5 breath For just _____ a mo - ment

Optional improvised vocal discant on any vowel

11

Solo ad libitum over the harmony for as long as desired

7. A subtle sparkle

Hopeful ♩ = 84

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a piano introduction in D major and 5/4 time, marked *mp*. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The vocal line enters at measure 5 with the lyrics "A sub-tle". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. At measure 10, the tempo is marked *rit.* and the dynamics change to *ff*. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "sparkle re-minds me to lift my". The piano accompaniment features a more complex rhythmic pattern with some syncopation. The score concludes with a final chord in D major.

Brightly ♩ = 120

12

eyes.

ff

3

Meno mosso ♩ = 108

14

sub. p

3

accel.

17

mf

p

3

A field of glit

$\text{♩} = 120$

21 *f*

ff

ter.

3

3

poco a poco rit.

23 *mp*

p

27 $(\text{♩} = 60)$

pp