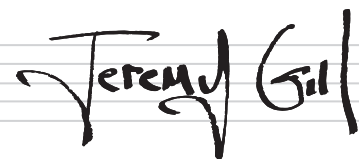


3 Songs About Words

for soprano (or tenor) and piano with clarinet



Jeremy Gil

3 Songs About Words

for soprano (or tenor) and piano with clarinet
text by Lucy Miller Murray

Commission

commissioned by Martin L. and Lucy Miller Murray
to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Market Square Concerts

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Premiere

10 July 2015 at Lincoln Recital Hall, Portland, OR
by Evanna Lai, Yevgeny Yontov, and David Shifrin (“Words”)

18 May 2016 at An Die Musik, Baltimore, MD
by Laura Whittenberger, Wan-Chi Su, and Melissa Johnson Lander (complete)

Instrumentation

soprano (or tenor)
piano
clarinet in B-flat

Duration

approximately 10 minutes

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3 Songs About Words

Words

Sit there, listen, listen to my voice
Sit there and be silent, love;
Ask me nothing, let me pound
My heart against your door;
Listen love, but do not open
Lest I should falter, fly in fear.

On Hearing a Very Famous Man Speak Profoundly

I sat complacent on that tin chair
And heard the ancient scholar say
That what is real we cannot know for certain
But only hope to feel at times its insufficient shade;
And all about me the learned heads would nod
In blind agreement of despair that knew itself
As innocent pattering upon paneled walls
That dulled its awful content and held mute the bleating heart.
Yet all this while I longed to press my lips upon your ear
And tell you of the drab, unconscious sparrow
That stared unblinking through the pane,
A gray bird on a gray bush, unconcerned, but there.

Please Take My Words

Please take my words
And turn them into song,
Do not leave them in a dusty drawer
For someone else to find
When all is done.

Please take my words
And turn them into song—
Give them your long crescendos,
Your subtle harmonies,
And your gentle ritards.

Please take my words
And turn them into song,
And if you do,
I shall be a child
Let loose among bells.

3 SONGS ABOUT WORDS

1. WORDS

♩ = 54

Clarinet in B \flat
(notated as sounding)

Soprano
(or Tenor)

Piano

p, cresc. (l.h.) *f p*

tr *acc.* - - - - -

ped. - - - - -

5

(tr) *7* *fp*

8va *sf*

Sit there, lis- ten, lis - ten to my

tempo *rit.* - -

8

espr. *tempo*

voice

Sit there and be si- lent, love;

p *pp*

13

Ask me no - thing, let me pound My

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

secco *8^{va}* *8^{vb}*

19

heart a - gainst your door; Lis - ten love,

cresc. *più cresc.* *ff* *p*

mp *mf* *ff* *f*

8^{va} *8^{vb}*

25

but do not o - pen Lest I should fal - ter, fly in fear.

p poco *pp*

poco *sf*

tr

6/8 *2/4*

accel. - - - - -

32 (tr) *n.*

p, cresc. (l.h.) *f p sf*

Ped.

2. ON HEARING A VERY FAMOUS MAN SPEAK PROFOUNDLY

♩ = 60

Clarinet in B \flat
(notated as sounding)

Soprano
(or Tenor)

Piano

chiaro *8va* *8va*

sim.

Ped. sempre

7

espr.

8va *8vb*

12

p, flautando

18

poco cresc.

8va

loco

p

23

p, flautando

p

echo

I sat com - pla - cent on that tin chair_

8va

(loco)

(Ped. sempre)

28

— And heard the an - cient scho - lar say — That what is real we can - not know for cer - tain —

Musical score for measures 28-32. The system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, changing between 5/8 and 4/8 time signatures. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 30.

33

— But on - ly hope to feel at times its in - suf - fi - cient shade; —

p oscuro *chiaro*

8va | *chiaro*

Musical score for measures 33-38. The system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The vocal line features a long phrase with dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *oscuro* (dark), and *chiaro* (bright) at the end. An *8va* (octave up) marking is present above the piano part in measure 38.

39

cresc. *espr.*

8va | *8vb*

dim. poco a poco

Musical score for measures 39-44. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a complex texture with chords and moving lines. The vocal line includes dynamic markings *cresc.* (crescendo) and *espr.* (espressivo). The piano part has an *8va* (octave up) marking in measure 40 and an *8vb* (octave down) marking in measure 44. A *dim. poco a poco* (diminuendo poco a poco) marking is at the bottom left.

44

p *3* *5* *sfp* *sffp* *p*

pp *8^{va}* *mf* *8^{va}* *p* *ff* *8^{va}* *

And all a - bout me the learn-

48

p *ff* *poco*

- ed heads would nod In blind a - gree - ment of de - spair

8^{va} *p* *(8^{va})* *sim.*

Ped. sempre

50

cresc. poco a poco *3* *p* *cresc.*

that knew it - self As in - no - cent pat - ter - ing on pa - neled

(8^{va}) *p* *cresc.*

52

walls *f* That dulled its aw - ful con - tent and held mute

(8)

loco (8^{va}) (8^{va}) loco (8^{va})

54

f the bleat - ing

(Ped. sempre)

55

sempre f heart.

56

9 10 9

3 3 3 3

sf *sf*

57

9 10 9 10

3 3 3 3

sf *sf*

8^{vb}-----

58

13 13

ff *ff*

3 3 *sim.* 3

sf

59

ff

Yet

ff

8^{vb}

61

sempre ff

13

all this while I longed to press

ff

ff

8^{va}

8^{vb}

63

sempre ff

sempre ff

12

my lips u - pon your ear

dim.

mf

mf dim.

And tell you of the drab, un- con- scious

tutti l.v.

(Ped. sempre)

67

spar-row That stared_ un-blink-ing through the pane, A gray bird on a gray bush, un-con-cerned, but there.

72

77

3. PLEASE TAKE MY WORDS

♩ = 58

Clarinet in B \flat
(notated as sounding)

Soprano
(or Tenor)

Piano

Please take my words And turn them in - to song,

mp, cresc.

mp, cresc.

poco, sempre

p

cresc.

f

espr.
Ped.

5

p *p sempre* *mf*

Do not leave them in a dusty drawer

espr.

sub. mf *p*

9

cresc. *mf* *dim.* *espr.*

For some-one else to find When all is done.

molto rit.

5 *5* *5*

Ped. *5* *5*

13

mf, cresc. *mf, cresc.*

Please take my words And turn them into

come prima *5* *5* *5*

p *cresc. molto*

espr.

17

song: _____ Give them your long cre -

f *sempre forte* *fp*

f *sempre f* *f* *p*

21

scen-dos, — Your sub-tle har-mo-nies, — And your

cresc. *dim.*

cresc. *f*

rit. — — — — —

24

gen-tle ri-tards. Please take my

dim. *più f*

mp *espr.* *p*

Ped. *espr.*

28

più f

cresc.

words And turn them in - to song, ^{8va}

cresc.

5 5 6 6

3 5 3

31

cresc.

And if you do,

cresc.

cresc.

(8)

f

sf p cresc. e accel.

6 6 7 6 6

3

ped.

34

cresc. e accel.

sf

rit. - - - - - pause,

^{8va}

sf

mp

3/4 2/4

3/4 2/4

pause,

38 *a tempo meno mosso*

p
p
sempre p
 I shall be a child Let loose a-mong bells.
p espr.
Ped.

n.
p
p

8va
pp
pp