

Matt Geer

Seven songs of the soul

for soprano

2020

Full Score

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Text

1.

My soul walks through the castle gate
and gives itself to prayer
So distant from a humble state
as castles in the air

2.

The poisonous creatures at my feet
Great grace I should escape
Recall the snakes, so calm and sweet
All longer I remain

3.

I handpick words right from a tree
Each one said as it means
Absorbed all hours of the day
Embracing penanced dreams

4.

I naturally fall asleep
I yearn for solitude
Accompanied by the greatest peace
Oh sweet and still cocoon

5.

The waterfalls rush in my brain
They drench my body whole
My great calm soul stands in the rain
Consoled as to console

6.

A natural fountain springs to life
with ectacy and joy
My future, like my past that died
The tears drown out my voice

7.

Eternal stillness I do sit
forevermore in prayer
His tender love as I sit in
a castle in the air

Matt Geer
Based on the writings of S. Teresa d'Avila

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Seven songs of the soul for soprano

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Seven songs of the soul is a work inspired by the S. Teresa d'Avila's writings, taking the reader on a journey into a castle with several mansions. As the reader progresses into each mansion, they fall deeper into a meditative state; not by what is around them but by what is inside them. Here, the music remains static, but the listener's perception of usual and unusual may shift back and forth.

Performance instructions:

This piece may be staged and the soprano may act, or the piece may be performed alongside a visual artistic medium, such as video projection.

The harmonic reduction outlines the harmony present in an electronics track, which may be played with the soprano. If this is not possible, a pianist (or any polyphonic instrument, or a number of monophonic instruments) may play the harmonic reduction. If the instrument is sustaining, notes should be held throughout and should decay naturally.

The dynamics and tempo remain static throughout; it is important that the music does not change, but any theatrical element may encompass movement or narrative.

Each movement should run *attacca*.

If a performance is using electronics, it may be necessary to have a visual metronome linked to the Logic file in the line of the performer.

Both the Logic Pro X file and a PureData generative patch is available upon request.

Seven songs of the soul

for soprano (2020)

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1.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Soprano

My soul walks through the ca - stle gate____

Harmonic reduction

7 (hum)

mmm and gives it - self to

15 (hum)

prayer. mmm

23 (hum)

So dis - tant from a hum - ble state — mmm

This system contains measures 23 through 30. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 23, followed by a half rest in measure 24. In measure 25, the vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and G4 in measure 26. A fermata is placed over the G4 in measure 27. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, primarily in the bass register.

31 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

This system contains measures 31 through 40. The vocal line has whole rests in measures 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at the start of measure 37. The vocal line has whole rests in measures 37, 38, 39, and 40. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes, with some activity in the right hand in measures 37-40.

41 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

This system contains measures 41 through 51. The vocal line has whole rests in measures 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50. A key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) occurs at the start of measure 51. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 51. The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with some activity in the right hand in measures 41-51.

52 (hum) as

mmm as

This system contains measures 52 through 61. The vocal line has whole rests in measures 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at the start of measure 61. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 61. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes, with some activity in the right hand in measures 52-61.

59 (hum)

ca - stles in the air. mmm

65 (hum) (hum) attacca

mmm mmm

2.

(♩ = 80) (hum)

Soprano

The poi - s'nous crea - tures at my feet mmm

Harmonic reduction

8 (hum)

mmm great grace I should e - scape

16 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

26 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

36 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

47 (hum)

mmm

56 (hum) (hum)

mmm Re - call the snakes, so calm and sweet mmm

65 (hum) attacca

mmm All lon - ger I re - main. mmm

3.

$\text{♩} = 80$
(hum) (hum)

Soprano

mmm mmm

Harmonic reduction

10 (hum) (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm mmm

22 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

32 (hum)

I hand - pick words right from the tree mmm

40 (hum)

mmm each one said as it means

48 (hum) (hum)

Ab - sorbed all ho - urs of the day mmm mmm

57

em - bra - cing pe - nanced dreams.

This musical system covers measures 57 to 62. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, then enters with the lyrics "em - bra - cing pe - nanced dreams." The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

63

(hum) (hum) attacca

mmm mmm

This musical system covers measures 63 to 68. The vocal line consists of sustained notes with the instruction "(hum)" above them. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support. A box labeled "attacca" is placed at the end of the system. The lyrics "mmm" are written below the vocal line.

4.

(♩ = 80)

Soprano

I nat - ur - al - ly fall a - sleep

Harmonic reduction

This musical system covers measures 1-6. It includes a Soprano vocal line and a Harmonic reduction piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics "I nat - ur - al - ly fall a - sleep" are written under the vocal line.

7

(hum) (hum)

mmm mmm I yearn for so - li - tude

This musical system covers measures 7-12. The vocal line features sustained notes with "(hum)" above them. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The lyrics "I yearn for so - li - tude" are written under the vocal line.

17 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

26 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm ac -

35

- compa - nied by the great - est peace Oh

41 (hum) attacca

sweet and still ca - coon. mmm

5.

(♩ = 80)

Soprano (hum) mmm (hum) mmm

Harmonic reduction

9 (hum) mmm (hum) mmm

20 (hum) mmm (hum) mmm The

29 (hum) mmm (hum) mmm

wa - ter - falls rush in my brain

38 (hum)

they drench my bo - dy whole mmm

46 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

57

my great calm soul stands in the rain

65 (hum) (hum) attacca

mmm mmm con - soled as to con - sole.

6.

(♩ = 80) (hum)

Soprano

A nat - ural foun - tain springs to life mmm

Harmonic reduction

7 (hum)

mmm

16 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm with ec - ta - cy and joy mmm mmm

27 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

37 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm

47 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

58

my fu - ture, like my past that died

64 (hum) (hum) attacca

mmm mmm the tears down own my voice.

(♩ = 80) (hum) (hum)

Soprano

mmm mmm E - ter - nal still - ness

Harmonic reduction

9 (hum) (hum)

I do sit mmm mmm

19 (hum)

for - e - ver - more in prayer mmm

27 (hum)

mmm His ten - der love as

36 (hum) (hum)

I sit in mmm mmm a cas - tle in the air.

46 (hum)

mmm

54 (hum) (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm mmm

64 (hum) (hum)

mmm mmm