

David LaDelfa

Three Poems
of
Sandro Penna

for tenor and piano

limited sector
MUSIC PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 8912, Santa Barbara, CA 93118
www.limitedsector.com

Era il settembre. Riandava la gente
rumorosa alle strade. Il sole amava
il vino e l'operaio. I canti ardevano
fino alla notte fonda.

Ma restava
attonito un fanciullo, ormai legato
—sotto il caldo fogliame di una sera—
al ridere innocente di un amico ...

Come è bello seguirti
o giovine che ondeggi
calmo nella città notturna.
Se ti fermi in un angolo, lontano
io resterò, lontano
dalla tua pace, — o ardente
solitudine mia.

Era per la città quasi un comune
personaggio, sebbene assai gentile.
E tale fu nel tram. Lento rossore
appariva e spariva. Lentamente
fummo portati a una dolce deriva.
Moriva il giorno alla periferia.

Indi lo vidi con il suo segreto
di carne allontanarsi, personaggio
anonimo rientrare nell'amico
cielo dell'alba, a sera. Era il suo velo
fra le mie mani: il rossore di un rudere antico.

I

It was September. People walked
the noisy streets. The sun embraced
wine and worker. Songs burned
deep into the night.

But a boy stood there,
stunned, bound for the moment
—under the warm evening leafage—
to his friend's innocent laughter.

II

How beautiful it is to follow you
O young man with swaying hips
idly strolling through the city night.
If you should pause at the street corner,
I shall stop out of the way, — out of the way
of your peace, — O my ardent
solitude.

III

In the city he seemed an ordinary
sort of person, though very kind.
As he was in the streetcar. Slow blush
spreading and fading. Slowly
we drifted away together.
The day was dying on the city's edge.

Then I saw him move away
with his secret of flesh, a nameless
figure walking back into the dawn's
friendly sky, at evening. It was his veil
I held in my hands: the blush of an ancient ruin.

poems one and three translated by W.S. Di Piero
from *This Strange Joy: Selected Poems of Sandro Penna*
©1982 Ohio State University Press.

poem two translated by James Kirkup
from *The European Gay Review*, vol. 3
© 1988 Verlaine-Rimbaud (Publishers), London.

Three Poems of Sandro Penna was written between June 1991 and April 1992 for the voice of Tom Bell, and it is dedicated to Ralph Cosio. The present version, incorporating some very minor revisions, was prepared and digitally typeset by the composer in November 1999.

Three Poems of Sandro Penna

SANDRO PENNA

DAVID LADELFA

Brightly
♩ = 66

f

Ped.

f

Er - a il set - tem bre.

mf

Ped.

♩ = 136

Ri - an - da - va la gen - te — ru - mor - o - sa al - le stra - de.

3

♩ = 136

Ped.

♩ = 136

mf

Ped.

Music copyright © 1999 David LaDelfa. All rights reserved.
Texts copyright © 1982 Ohio State University Press, © 1988 Verlaine-Rimbaud (Publishers). Used by permission.
Unauthorized duplication, performance, recording prohibited.

mp

Il so - le a - ma - va

fp

il vi - no e l'o-per-ai - o. I can - ti ar - de - va - no

fp

fi - no al-la not - te fon - da.

mp

molto rall.-----

Red. _____

Red. _____

Broader ♩ = 76

f

Ma res - ta - va at - to - ni - to

Broader ♩ = 76

f

Red. _____

Red. _____

un fan - ciul - lo, or - mai le - ga -

Ped. Ped.

- to sot - to il

p Ped.

cal - do fo glia - me

mp Ped. Ped.

di un - a ser - a

mf Ped.

p

al ri-der - e in - no - cen - te di

una corda p (tre corde)

Red.

44

un a - - - mi - co ... segue

tre corde mp *p* *pp*

segue

Very Still

$\bullet = 40$ or less

una corda, sempre pp

Red.

pp

Co - - me è bel - lo se -

Red.

guir - - ti o

12:1 *12:1* *12:1* *12:1*

Red.

gi - - o vi - - ne che on -

9:1 *9:1*

Red.

- deg - gi cal - mo nel - - la

3 *mp*

mp

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

dim. cit - tà not tur - na.

3

dim.

Red. *Red.*

mp

$\text{♩} = 100$

Se ti fer - mi

mp

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

molto rit. ----- *A Tempo* *mf*

in un an - go - lo lon -

A Tempo

molto rit. ----- *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

- ta - no io re - - -

mp

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

ster - ò, lon - ta - no

tr^b

6

3

6

3

Red.

dal - la tu - a pa - ce, —

3

3

3

cresc.

Red.

o ar - den - te

p

mf *p subito*

Red.

so - li - tu - di - ne mia.

5

Red.

♩ = 60
(una corda) *p*

Two staves of music in G major, 12/8 time. The right hand features a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left hand plays a bass line with a 4-measure rest followed by a 2-measure rest.

Red.

Two staves of music in G major, 12/8 time. The right hand continues the arpeggiated pattern. The left hand has a 4-measure rest followed by a 2-measure rest.

♩ = 72
mp

Two staves of music in G major, 12/8 time. The right hand continues the arpeggiated pattern. The left hand has a 4-measure rest followed by a 2-measure rest.

Two staves of music in G major, 12/8 time. The right hand continues the arpeggiated pattern. The left hand has a 4-measure rest followed by a 2-measure rest.

tre corde
f *accel. poco a poco*

Two staves of music in G major, 6/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

$\text{♩} = 80$

mf

E - ra per la cit - tà

mp

qua - si un co - mu - ne per - so - na - ggio, seb -

mf

Red. | Red. | Red. | Red. | Red. | Red. |

- be - ne as - sai gen ti - - - - - le.

f
E ta - le fu ___ nel ___

p
tram. Len - to ros - so - re ap - pa - ri - va e spa - ri - va.

fp *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

$\text{♩} = 69$
f *p* *mp*

mp
Len - ta - men - te fum - mo por - ta - ti a

mp

molto rit. -----

mf

un - a dol-ce de - ri - va. Mo -

ff *molto rit.* ----- *mf*

- ri - va il gior - no al-la pe - ri-fe - ri-a.

Very freely, like recitative (♩ = about 68)

mf

In - di lo vi - di con il su - o se -

f *mf*

Very freely, like recitative (♩ = about 68)

roll before the beat

simile

port.

- gre - to di car - ne al - lon - ta - nar - si,

f *mf*

mf

per-so-na-ggi-o a - non-i-mo ri - en-tra - re nell'

pp restrained

poco cresc. -----

Red. _____

f *p*

am - i - co ci - el - o dell' al - ba, a se - ra.

p *f* *mp* *pp*

Red. _____

♩ = 84 *più rit.* ----- *A tempo* *p*

Er - a il

pp *p* *più rit.* ----- *A tempo*

Red. _____

su-o ve - lo fra le mi - e ma - ni:

Ped. _____

mp ————— *mf*

il ros-so - - re di un ru -

mp *mf*

R.H.

Ped. _____

- de - re an - ti - co.

p

Hold keys,
release pedal
on downbeat

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Santa Barbara, April 1992
rev. November 1999