

Contemporary Art Song

Three More Songs of  
Norman MacCaig  
by  
Joe St.Johanser



**Three poems  
of Norman  
MacCaig**

for voice and piano

**1 Porpoises**

**2. Summer Farm**

**3. Bull**

**Mr MacCaig's 'Collected Poems' is  
published by Chatto and Windus.**

# Porpoises

**Allegretto**  $\text{♩} = 60$

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase in the key of B-flat major, 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a delicate texture with a *p dolce* dynamic in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with a *mf* dynamic marking.

7 *mf*  
In twos and

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "In twos and". The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with sixteenth-note patterns. The system ends with a *p* dynamic marking.

12  
threes and fives they made a cir-cus ring of the

The third system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "threes and fives they made a cir-cus ring of the". The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern. The system ends with a *p* dynamic marking.

19 *f*  
Minch a cir cus ring of the Minch wheel - -

The fourth system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Minch a cir cus ring of the Minch wheel - -". The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic marking. The system ends with a *f* dynamic marking.

25  
- - ling ov - - er and lea - ving be

The fifth system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "- - ling ov - - er and lea - ving be". The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic marking. The system ends with a *f* dynamic marking.

29 *mp* exaggerate and lengthen 'ffs'

hind them in the air two puffs, — three puffs, — five puffs,

36

au - di - ble plumes

*mf* *pp* *tr*

44

*pp* *p* *mf*

53

57 *mf*

One looked to see on their backs or

*p*

64

in the carved car \_\_\_\_\_ they might well be pul - ling \_\_\_\_\_

71

some plump myth - i - cal boy \_\_\_\_\_

76

or sea -

80

$\text{♩} = 40$  *spoken - very free slow tempo*  
*grandioso - like an orator*

green sea - nymph or A - ri - on him - self, twang - ling from his lyre

*colla voce*

4 **A tempo**

88 ♩. = 60

twang - ling from his lyre au-di-ble spray

*p*

This system contains measures 88 through 95. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase starting on a half note G4, moving through A4, B4, and C5, then descending. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line with chords in the left hand. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present in the piano part.

96

But not these days

*tr*

*pp* *p*

This system contains measures 96 through 106. The vocal line has a long rest for the first two measures, then enters with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment includes a trill (*tr*) in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

107

*mf*

This system contains measures 107 through 112. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with sixteenth-note patterns and a bass line with chords. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking is present.

113

*mf*

All the same I my-

*p*

This system contains measures 113 through 118. The vocal line has a long rest for the first two measures, then enters with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a sixteenth-note accompaniment in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

118

self \_\_\_\_\_ (in a myth - i cal sort of way) have been drawn \_\_\_\_\_

125

o - ver\_ me-ta pho ri cal\_ wa - ters By

131

these cur - - - ving - backs by these cur - ving

136

*spoken - very free slow tempo*  
*grandioso - like an orator*  
♩. = 40

backs, till, filled with an e - la-tion I don't want to have explained to me,

*colla voce*

**A tempo**

144

♩. = 60

I lif - ted a pa gan face and shou ted au - di - ble

*p*

152

**molto rall.**

non - - - sense au - di - ble

*tr*

157

♩. = 40

non - - - sense

*tr*



Moderato

1 ♩ = 100 Gently dreaming

5

straws like tame

10

light-nings lie a-bout the grass And hang zig-zagon hed - ges. Green as glass Green as

14

glass The wat - er in the horse-trough shines

19

ducks go wobb ling by in two straight lines.

24 *tr*  
*mp* *f*

29  
 A hen\_ sees A hen\_ sees noth-ing no - thing  
*mp*

34  
 with one eye, then picks it up. Out\_ *mp*

39 *mf*  
 \_ of an emp-tysky a swal-low falls and, flick-e-ring through the barn, dives \_\_\_ up a-gain

43 *Andante*  
 ♩ = 80 *f* > *p* *mp*  
 in-to the diz - zy \_\_\_ blue. \_\_\_ I lie, not think-ing,

**A tempo**

49  $\text{♩} = 100$

in the cool, soft grass, Af-raid of where a thought might take me-

53 **accel.**

as This grass-hop-per with plat - ed face Un-folds his legs and

57  $\text{♩} = 130$  **f** **rall.**

finds him-self in space. Self un-der self, a pile of selves I

**Andante**

62  $\text{♩} = 80$

stand Threa-dedon time, and with met - a -phy-sic hand Lift the

66

farm \_ \_ like a lid \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and see farm \_ with-in farm,

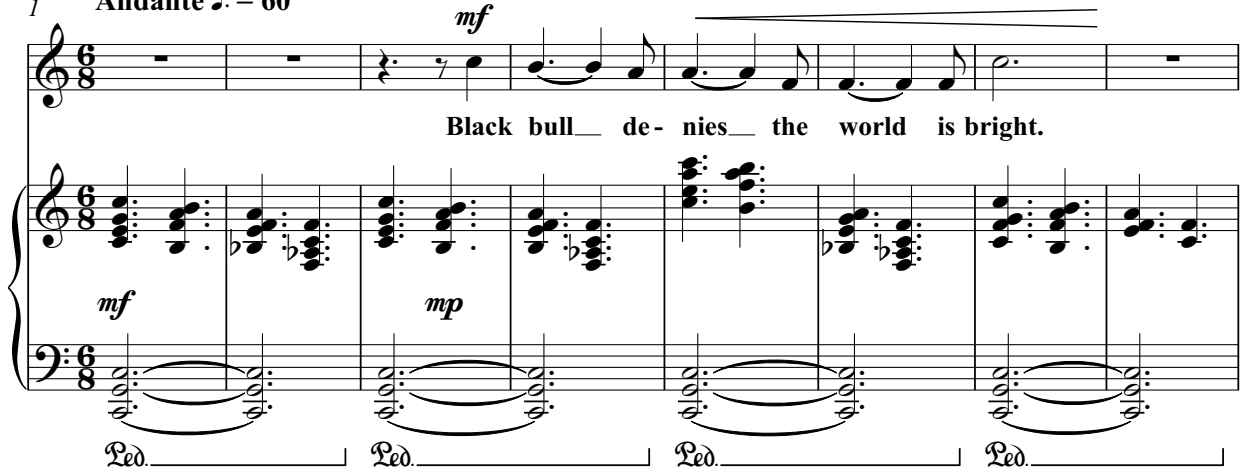
69

and in the cen - - - - tre, me.

# Bull

1 Andante ♩ = 60

*mf*



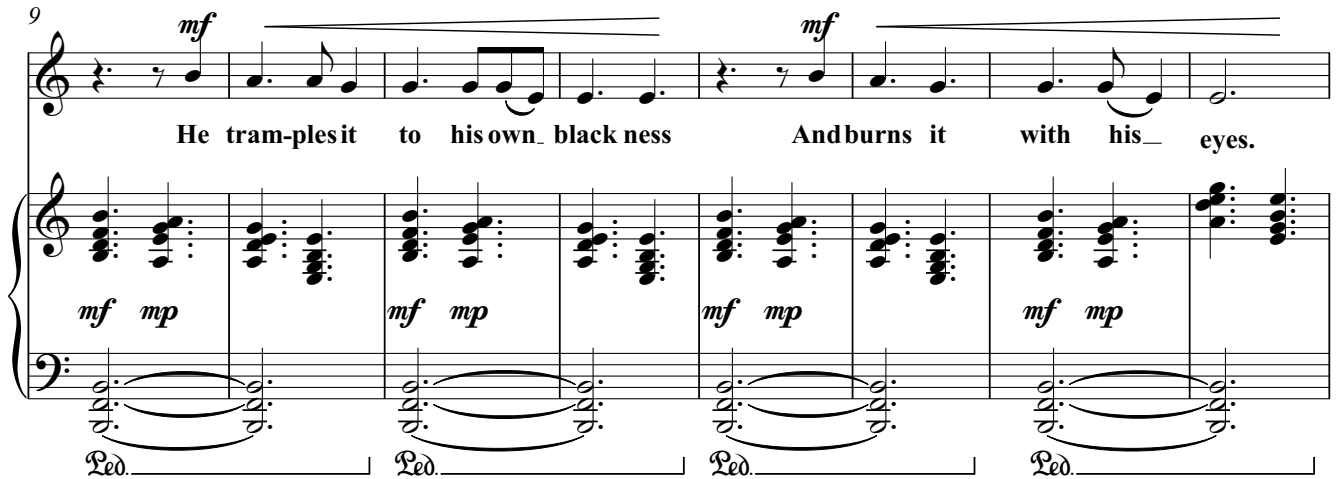
Black bull de-nies the world is bright.

*mf mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

9

*mf*



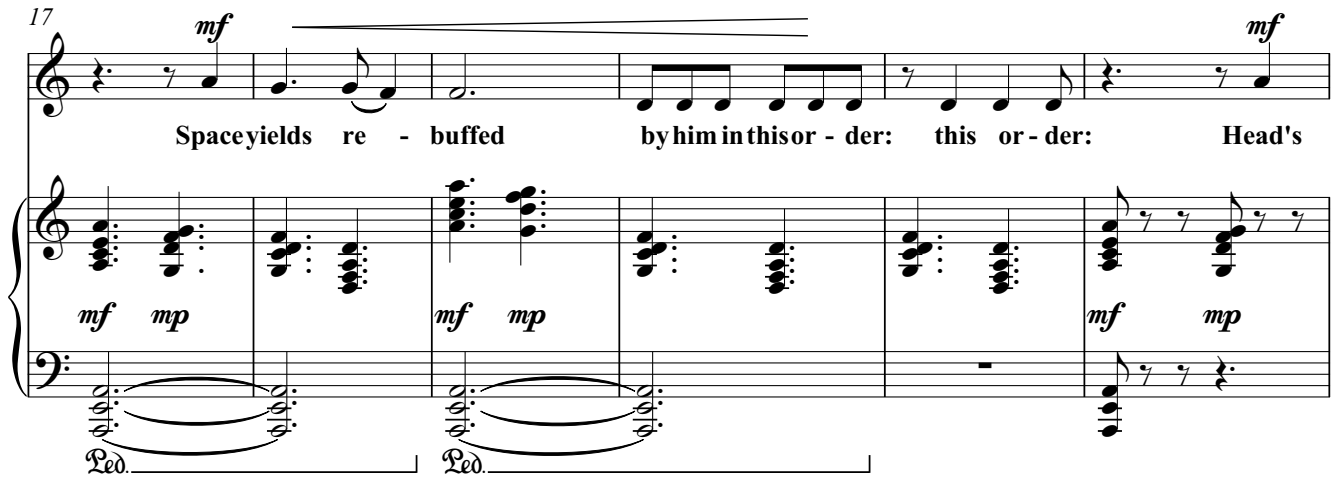
He tram-plest it to his own black ness And burns it with his eyes.

*mf mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

17

*mf*



Space yields re-buffed by him in this or-der: this or-der: Head's

*mf mp*

Ped. Ped.

23



box, bo-dy's bar-rel, pinched haunches; tail's tuft.

*mf mp*

29 *mf* *mf*

Caged in his\_ cage He dwarfs the dyke he

*mf mp* *mf mp* *mf mp* *mf mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

37 *mf*

smoul - ders by; is a cloud\_\_ of thun - der,

*mf mp* *mf mp* *mf mp*

43 *mf*

He moans with lust\_\_ and rage Black love\_\_ on fire, \_\_

*mf mp* *mf mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

52

Locked\_\_ in his ru-i-nous hea - ven

*mf*

Ped.

59

*molto rall.*

From the saun-te-ring film star hei - fer Min - cing to wards the

*mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 59 through 62. It features a vocal line in a treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The vocal line includes lyrics: "From the saun-te-ring film star hei - fer Min - cing to wards the". The piano accompaniment starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The tempo marking *molto rall.* is positioned above the vocal line. The music concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 62.

63

byre

*8vb*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 63 through 66. The vocal line (treble clef) has a long note in measure 63 with the lyric "byre" underneath, followed by rests. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. At the end of measure 66, there is a dynamic marking *8vb* (pianissimo) and a double bar line.