

Bird Parade - Six Short Songs of Norman MacCaig

1. Blue Tit
2. The Diplomat (Eagle)
3. Buzzard
4. Puffin
5. Solitary Crow
6. Cock

Joe St.Johanser



to D'reen Legg

Poems by
Norman MacCaig

Music by
Joe St.Johanser

BIRD PARADE

1. Blue tit on a string of peanuts

♩ = 60

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of ♩ = 60 and a *maestoso* instruction. The piano accompaniment starts with a *ff* dynamic, while the voice part is silent. The lyrics are: "A cub - ic inch of some stars weighs a hun - dred tons Blue tit, Who could mea - sure the pow - er of your tin - - - y spark of en - er - gy Your hair thin legs (one north-east, one due west)". The score includes various dynamics such as *mp*, *f*, and *pp*, and performance directions like "awe and wonder" and "gentle mocking". The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern in the left hand, including a section marked "8va" with a *p* dynamic.

10 *awe and wonder*
mf

sup - port a scrap of vol - can - o four

12 *mp*

inch - es of hur ri cane and, see - ing me, you make the sound

15 *very free time* *gentle mocking*

of a grain of saw dust be - ing sawn by the

17 *a tempo* *rit.*

min - ut est of saws *maestoso*

2. Diplomat (The Eagle)

♩ = 120

Piano

f

22 *molto espressivo. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

The eag-le's beak that looks such a ter-ri-fy-ing wea-pon

26 *mf* *f*

of at-tack is used on-ly to tear a-part the flesh of cad-a-vers

creepy *pp*

30 *mp*

What

f *p* *mp*

Red.

33 *mf*

hurts is when he shakes hands with you.

f *mp* *p*

Red.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120. The score is divided into systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Dynamics range from piano (p) to fortissimo (f). The lyrics describe an eagle's beak and its use in tearing apart the flesh of cadavers. The score includes performance markings such as 'molto espressivo' and 'Red.' (Reduction). The piece concludes with a change in time signature to 3/4.

3. Buzzard circling

♩ = 60

Piano *p*

8va

Red.

41 *mp*

The land-scape wheels round its cen-tre the buz-zard that sees a hill slide

(8)

mp *p* *p*

8va

47

side - ways, a field spin round. The buz-zard wheels

8va

8va

53

round an o-ther in-vis-i-ble cen-tre the black hole

p

58

that waits for buz-zard and hill

8va

p *mp*

Red.

8va

Red.

64 *mp*
that will suck in all cir-cum-fer-en-ces to the

(8)

mp *p* *pp* *p*

69
place that was be-fore cha-os was cre-

p *8va*

73
a - ted

p

4. Puffin

$\text{♩} = 80$

mf

82 *mf*

Where _____ the small burn spreads in-to the sea loch I found the

90

mad_ cle-ver clown's_ beak of a puf- fin_ How ma-ny times had it

97

whirled in- to its bur - row with a six - fold whis - ker of ti - ny fish - es?

104

How ma-ny times had it grun- ted love to its par-rot faced lov - er

bebung *f*

111

I clack my own beak by my own bur-row

119

to feel how ma-ny lit-tle fish-es I've whis-kered home, and I grunt and

126

grunt be-fore hirl-ing off a-gain in-to the huge

133

sea spa-ces

rallentando.

138

legato

♩ = 40

mp

5. Solitary Crow

♩ = 80

144

Why so lita-ry crow? — He in his fea-thers is a whole world of crow —

150

♩ = 110

of a drystick nest — Ofwin-dy

159

♩ = 105

dis - tan - ces where to be crow — is best — Of tough - guy

168

♩ = 90

♩ = 80

clown - ing and black things done to a sprawled lamb whose

175

blood beads in the sun. —

6. Cock before dawn

$\text{♩} = 80$

p *mp*

185

mp *mf* *mp*

Those dab-bing hens__ I fe-ro-cious-ly love__ sag on their per-ches half__ de-fla-ted

p *mp*

più mosso accel.

189

$\text{♩} = 100$

mp

I'll have none of it I'm reg-i-ment-al a plumb-line

p *mp*

$\text{♩} = 120$ $\text{♩} = 140$

193

mf

goes from my head to my toes I bur-nish the dark__ with my breast__ Lu-ci-fer's my

197

p *pp*

blood bro-ther When I spread my wings I'm crys-tal bat-tements and thun-der bolts. I

202 $\text{♩} = 80$

tread the earth by pre-tend-ing not to.

p *mp*

206

The West and the East are mea-sured from me...

mp *mf* *pp*

p *mp* *pp*

210 $\text{♩} = 60$

It's time I crowed It's time I crowed

ff

214

The Sun will be wait ing

p *ff*