

Piano/Vocal



Carol Barnett

THE DARKLING THRUSH




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The Darkling Thrush

*I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted night
Had sought their household fires.*

*The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.*

*At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.*

*So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.*

Thomas Hardy - 1900

Duration: c. 8:00

Hardy's poem captures so well the gloomy thoughts of late winter, when everything is grey and all nature seems dead. But little incongruities catch our attention and lift our spirits. The tiny thrush, with its bedraggled appearance and joyous song, won't banish seasonal affective disorder, but perhaps coaxes forth a gentle smile.

Commissioned by New Amsterdam Singers in honor of its founder and Music Director Clara Longstreth, on the occasion of the chorus's 50th Anniversary.

The Darkling Thrush

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

Carol Barnett

♩ = 69

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Keyboard
(string quartet
reduction)

p

cresc. poco

7 *mp*

S

I leant up-on a cop-pice gate _____ When Frost was spec - tre-grey, _____

Kybd.

mp *p*

||

12 *mp*

A

And Win-ter's dregs made de-so-late _____ The weak-'ning eye of day.

Kybd.

16 *p*

S
ah _____ ah _____

A
p _____ *mp* _____ 3

ah _____ ah _____ And Win - ter's dregs made de - so - late...

T
mp _____
8 Grey frost,

B
mp _____
Grey frost, _____ 3 The

Kybd.
mf _____ *p* _____ 3

20

S
ah _____ *mf* The tan-gled bine - stems scored the

A
p _____ *mf* The tan-gled bine - stems scored the

T
mp _____ *mf* The tan-gled bine - stems scored the

B
weak - 'ning eye... — *mf* The tan-gled bine - stems scored the

Kybd.
mf

24

S sky — Like strings of brok - en lyres, ————— And all man-kind that

24

A sky — Like strings of brok-en lyres, ————— And all man-kind that

A sky — like strings of brok-en lyres, — And all man-kind that

T sky, strings of brok - en lyres, And all man-kind that

B sky, strings of brok - en lyres, And all man-kind that

Kybd.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

27 *poco accel.*

S
haunt - ed nigh — Had sought their house - hold fires. — *p*

A
haunt - ed nigh — Had sought their house - hold fires. — ah — *p*

T
8
haunt - ed nigh — Had sought their house - hold fires. — ah — *p*

B
haunt - ed nigh — Had sought their house - hold — fires. — *p*

Kybd.
p mp

Poco più mosso (♩ = 76)

32 *p*

S
The land's sharp

Kybd.
mp p

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37

S fea - tures, sharp fea - tures, sharp fea - tures, sharp fea - tures,

A *p* The land's sharp fea - tures, sharp fea - tures, sharp fea - tures seemed to

T *p* The land's sharp fea - tures, sharp fea - tures seemed to

B *p* The land's sharp fea - tures seemed to

Kybd.

37

41 *pp* Poco più mosso (♩ = 80)

S out - leant, out - leant,

A be The Cen - tu-ry's corpse out - leant,

T be The Cen - tu-ry's corpse out - leant, His crypt the

B be The Cen - tu-ry's corpse out - leant, His crypt the

Kybd. *pp*

41

Poco più mosso (♩ = 80)

45

S *p* His crypt the cloud - y

A *p* His crypt the cloud - y

T *p* cloud - y can - o - py,

B *p* cloud - y can - o - py,

Kybd. *p*

50

S *mp* can - o - py, the can - o - py, the can - o - py, The wind, ah, *f*

A *mp* can - o - py, the can - o - py, the can - o - py, The wind ah, *f*

T *mp* His crypt the cloud - y can - o - py, The wind, ah, *f*

B *mp* His crypt the cloud - y can - o - py, The wind, ah, *f*

Kybd. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

54 *mf* *p*
S his death - la - ment.

mf *p*
A his death - la - ment.

mf *p*
T his death - la ment.

mf *p*
B his death - la - ment.

54 *mf* *mp*
Kybd.

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60

S *p* The an-cient

A *p* The an-cient

T *p* The an-cient pulse of germ and birth,

B *pp* ...an - cient

Kybd.

66

S *pp* pulse of germ and birth, shrunk-en hard and dry,

A *pp* pulse of germ and birth, shrunk-en hard and dry,

T *pp* hard

B *p* pulse, an - cient pulse, an - cient pulse Was shrunk-en hard and dry,

Kybd.

71 *mp* *rall.* *dim.*

S and dry, And ev - 'ry spir - it up - on earth Seemed fer - vour - less

A and dry, And ev - 'ry spir - it up - on earth... —

T — and dry, And ev - 'ry spir - it up - on earth Seemed fer - vour - less *dim.*

B And ev - 'ry spir - it up - on earth... — *rall.*

71 *mp*

Kybd.

76 *p* *Quasi Tempo I* (♩ = 66) *pp*

S — as I. ah —

T — as I. —

76 *p* *Quasi Tempo I* (♩ = 66) *pp*

Kybd.

82

S *p* ah — *dim.* *pp*

A *p* ah — *dim.* ah

T *p* ah — *dim.* ah

B *p* ah — *dim.* ah

Kybd. *cresc.* *mp* *dim.*

88

A *pp*

T *pp*

B *pp* ah —

Kybd. *pp*

Poco più mosso (♩ = 80)

pp

S

At once a

pp

At once a voice, a voice a-rose, a voice a-rose,

Poco più mosso (♩ = 80)

tr *tr* *tr*

Kybd.

97

S

voice a - rose, at once a voice a - rose,

97

at once a voice a - rose, a voice a

p

A

pp

At once a voice a - rose, at once

tr *tr*

Kybd.

100 *p*

S a - rose a - mong the bleak twigs o -

100

rose a - mong the bleak twigs, the bleak twigs o -

A *p*

a - rose a - mong the bleak twigs, the bleak twigs o -

Kybd.

103 *mp*

S - ver - head In a full - heart - ed e - ven - song Of

103 *mp*

- ver - head In a full - heart - ed e - ven - song Of

A *mp*

- ver - head In a full - heart - ed e - ven - song Of

Kybd.

106 *p*
S joy — il — lim — it — ed;

106 *p*
A joy — il — lim — it — ed;

106 *p*
T An a — ged thrush,

106 *p*
B An a — ged thrush,

106 *pp*
Kybd.

The musical score is for the song "The Darkling Thrush". It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with a piano accompaniment (Kybd.). The score begins at measure 106. The vocal parts have the lyrics "joy — il — lim — it — ed;". The Tenor and Bass parts have the lyrics "An a — ged thrush,". The piano accompaniment includes trills (tr) and dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). The score is marked with a large watermark "For Perusal Only" and "beady eyes Publishing".

110

T

8 frail, gaunt and small, In blast-be-ruf-fled plume, Had

B

frail, gaunt and small, In blast-be-ruf-fled, ruf-fled plume, blast - be - ruf-fled plume, Had

frail, gaunt and small, In blast-be-ruf-fled, ruf-fled plume, Had

Kybd.

115

T

8 chos-en thus to fling his soul, ah Up - on the

B

chos-en thus to fling his soul, ah Up - on the

chos-en thus to fling his soul, ah Up - on the

Kybd.

mp *p*

119 **Tempo I** (♩ = 69)

S

T

B

Kybd.

grow - ing - gloom.

grow - ing - gloom.

grow - ing - gloom.

So lit-tle cause for

p

p

p

p

mp

p

124 *mp* *p* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

S car - ol - ings, car - ol - ings, car - ol - ings,

124 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

A So lit-tle cause for car-ol-ings, car - ol - ings,

p *mp* *p* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

T So lit-tle cause for car-ol-ings, car - ol - ings,

8 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

B So lit-tle cause for car - ol - ings,

p *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

3 So lit-tle cause,

124 *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

Kybd.

128

S
car - ol - ings, _____ car - ol - ings _____ *p* car - ol - ings _____ Of

A
car - ol - ings, _____ car - ol - ings, _____ *p* car - ol - ings _____ Of

T
8
car - ol - ings, _____ car - ol - ings, _____ *p* car - ol - ings _____ Of

B
car - ol - ings, _____ car - ol - ings, _____ *p* car - ol - ings _____ Of

dim. poco a poco
so lit - tle cause, _____ so lit - tle cause, _____ *p* so lit - tle cause _____ Of

128

Kybd.

The musical score is for the song 'The Darkling Thrush'. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with a keyboard accompaniment (Kybd.). The score is divided into two systems, each starting at measure 128. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'car - ol - ings, _____ car - ol - ings _____ *p* car - ol - ings _____ Of' and 'so lit - tle cause, _____ so lit - tle cause, _____ *p* so lit - tle cause _____ Of'. The keyboard accompaniment includes a *dim. poco a poco* marking and a triplet of eighth notes. The score is marked with a large watermark 'For Beady Eyes Publishing'.

131

S *mp* such ec - stat - ic sound, ah, *mp* Was

A *mp* such ec - stat - ic sound, ah, ah, *mp* Was

T *mp* such ec - stat - ic sound, ah, *mp* Was

B *mp* such ec - stat - ic sound Was

Kybd. *mp* *mp*

135

S *p* writ - ten on ter - res - tial things — A - far or nigh a - round, *p*

A *p* writ - ten on ter - res - tial things — A - far or nigh a - round, *p* That

T *p* writ - ten on ter - res - tial things — A - far or nigh a - round, *p* That

B *p* writ - ten on ter - res - tial things — A - far or nigh a - round, *p* That

Kybd. *p*

The Darkling Thrush

140 *mp* *cresc.*

S
...through His hap-py good - night air _____ Some

A *cresc.*
I could think there trem-bled through His hap-py good - night air _____ Some

T *cresc.*
I could think there trem-bled through His hap-py good - night air _____ Some

B *cresc.*
I could think there trem-bled through His hap-py good - night air _____ Some

Kybd. *cresc.*

144 *mf* *mp* *p*

S
bless - ed Hope, _____ And I was un - a - ware, _____ and

A *mf* *mp* *p*
bless - ed Hope, _____ And I was un - a - ware, _____ and

T *mf* *mp*
bless - ed Hope, where - of he knew And I was un - a - ware, un - a -

B *mf* *mp*
bless - ed Hope, _____ And I was un - a -

Kybd. *mf* *mp* *p*

148 *dim.*

S I was un - a - ware. ah ah *dim.*

148 *dim.*

A I was un - a - ware. ah ah *dim.*

T ware, un - a - ware, un - a - ware. Bless-ed Hope, Bless - ed *mp* *tutti p*

B ware, and I was un - a - ware. ah *dim.*

148

Kybd.

mp *dim.*

solo mp *tutti p*

dim.

153 *pp*

S ah ah

153 *pp*

A ah ah

pp

T 8 Hope. ah

B ah ah

153 *pp*

Kybd.

tr *tr*

The musical score is for the song "The Darkling Thrush" on page 22. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (Kybd.). The score begins at measure 153. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) all sing "ah" in the first measure. The Tenor part has the lyric "Hope." in the second measure, followed by "ah" in the third measure. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support, with some trills (tr) in the final measures. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) throughout. A large watermark "For Perusal Only" is overlaid on the score.