

Jessica Rudman

Idyll

for Bass-Baritone and Piano

with Text by Siegfried Sassoon

2019

ca. 3:30

Idyll

for Bass-Baritone and Piano

Vocal Range

G2-D4

Program Notes

Idyll was written for Brandon Coleman as part of The American Opera Project's Composers & the Voice program, where it was workshopped in fall 2019. The author of the text, Siegfried Sassoon, is best known for his war poetry. Yet, *Idyll* does not deal specifically with war. Rather, it uses pastoral imagery to capture the narrator's intense desire to be reunited with a loved one who has passed on. The identity of this longed for person is left unspecified—perhaps a family member or friend, perhaps a war companion, perhaps his first love. That vagueness and the subdued tone of the poem create a powerful, poignant sense of loss and desire, which inspired the understated musical setting.

Text

In the grey summer garden I shall find you
With day-break and the morning hills behind you.
There will be rain-wet roses; stir of wings;
And down the wood a thrush that wakes and sings.
Not from the past you'll come, but from that deep
Where beauty murmurs to the soul asleep:
And I shall know the sense of life re-born
From dreams into the mystery of morn
Where gloom and brightness meet. And standing there
Till that calm song is done, at last we'll share
The league-spread, quiring symphonies that are
Joy in the world, and peace, and dawn's one star.

- published in *Picture-Show* (1920)

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Idyll

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

Expressively and with rubato ca. ♩=60

p intimate

In the grey summer

p warmly

Ped.

5

gar - den I shall find you With day - break and the morning hills be -

8

hind you. There will be rain-wet ros - es; stir of

mp *mf* warmly *poco accel.*

mp *mf* *poco accel.*

11 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

wings; And down the wood a thrush that wakes and sings.

poco rit. **16** *a tempo*

14

p with longing

Not from the past you'll

poco rit. **16** *a tempo*

poco accel.

17

come, but from that deep Where beauty murmurs to the

poco accel.

20

mp

soul a - sleep: And I shall know the sense of life re-

ca. ♩=72

23

mf

born From dreams in-to the mys - ter-y of morn Where

26

gloom and bright - ness meet. And stand ing there Till that calm song is

29

f

done, at last we'll share the league spread, quir - ing

The musical score for measures 29-30 features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two flats. The vocal line begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G, and then a series of eighth notes: A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a melody in the treble. A dynamic marking of ***f*** appears at the start of measure 30.

31

ff passionately**poco rit. .**

sym - pho - nies that are Joy in the world, and_

The musical score for measures 31-33 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a half rest in measure 31, followed by a half note G in measure 32, and a half note A in measure 33. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern. A dynamic marking of ***ff*** is present in measure 32, and a **poco rit. .** instruction is at the end of measure 33.

34

f

peace, and dawn's one star.

The musical score for measures 34-36 shows the vocal line with a half note G in measure 34, a half note A in measure 35, and a half note B in measure 36. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. A dynamic marking of ***f*** is at the start of measure 35.

37 a tempo (♩=72)

mf reflective

rit. al fine

41 *mp*

44 *p*

47 *pp*