

Jessica Rudman

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# To Think on You

Three Songs with Text by Walt Whitman

*for Tenor and Piano*

2012

ca. 8:00

# To Think on You

## Program Notes

*To Think on You* is a setting of three poems by Walt Whitman. Each represents a snapshot of love, ordered to reveal a progression from the search for love to the exhilarating obsessiveness of infatuation and finally the deep warmth of a satisfying union.

## Composer Contact Information

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## Text

### I. To a Stranger

PASSING stranger! you do not know how longingly I look upon you,  
You must be he I was seeking, or she I was seeking, (it comes to me, as of a dream,)  
I have somewhere surely lived a life of joy with you,  
All is recall'd as we flit by each other, fluid, affectionate, chaste, matured,  
You grew up with me, were a boy with me, or a girl with me,  
I ate with you, and slept with you--your body has become not yours  
only, nor left my body mine only,  
You give me the pleasure of your eyes, face, flesh, as we pass--you  
take of my beard, breast, hands, in return,  
I am not to speak to you--I am to think of you when I sit alone, or wake at night alone,  
I am to wait--I do not doubt I am to meet you again,  
I am to see to it that I do not lose you

### II. A Glimpse

A GLIMPSE, through an interstice caught,  
Of a crowd of workmen and drivers in a bar-room, around the stove,  
late of a winter night--And I unremark'd seated in a corner;  
Of a youth who loves me, and whom I love, silently approaching, and  
seating himself near, that he may hold me by the hand;  
A long while, amid the noises of coming and going--of drinking and  
oath and smutty jest,  
There we two, content, happy in being together, speaking little,  
perhaps not a word.

### III. Oh you whom I often and silently come

O YOU whom I often and silently come where you are, that I may be with you;  
As I walk by your side, or sit near, or remain in the same room with you,  
Little you know the subtle electric fire that for your sake is  
playing within me.

# To Think on You

Walt Whitman

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

## I. To a Stranger

**Abrupt** ca. ♩ = 144 **Suddenly Gentle** ♩ = 72

*ff almost shouted* *p warmly*

8 Pas-sing strang-er! Pas - - - sing - - - strang - er, - - -

5 *mp* you - - - do not know how long ing - ly I look - - - u - pon

*p dream-like* *cresc. poco a poco*

9 *mf* **With growing excitement** ♩ = 88 *p* *f*

8 you, - - - You must be he I was seek - ing,

*mf* *p*

13

spoken freely,  
as if an afterthought

or she I was seek-ing, (it

*f* *p* *mf* *decresc.* *p*

**poco accel.** **Suddenly faster** ♩ = 132

16

comes to me, \_\_\_\_\_ as of a dream), I have some-where

*mf* *f* *ppp* *mf*

8<sup>vb</sup>

**accel.**

20

sure-ly lived \_\_\_\_\_ a life of joy with you, All is re-call'd \_\_\_\_\_ as we

*ff* *mf* *f* *ff*

Red.

**Light and Energetic** ♩ = 144

24 *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

flit by each o - ther flu - id, af - fec - tion - ate, chaste, ma -

*mf* *f* *p* *mf* *ff* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *pp*

28 *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

tured, You grew up with me, were a boy with me, or a girl with me,

*f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

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

32 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco* *ff*

I ate with you, and slept with you, your bo - dy has

*f* *mp* *p* *f* *legato, decresc. poco a poco*

*Red.* *Red.*

**molto rit.**

36 *mf* *p*

— be-come not yours on - ly, nor left my bo - dy mine

*p* *ppp*

**a tempo** (♩ = 132)

40 *ppp* *p*

on - ly, You give me the plea - sure of your

*p*

**poco accel.**

45 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

eyes, face, flesh, as we pass, you take of my

*cresc. poco a poco*

49 *molto rit.* *f* *mp*

beard, breast, hands, in re - turn, I am not to

53 *p* *n* *p warmly* *3*  $\text{♩} = 72$

speak to you, I am to

*p dream-like*

*Ped.*

58 *mp* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

think of you when I sit a-lone, or wake at night a -

*mp* *pp sempre legato* *mp*

61 *mf* *mp*

lone, I am to wait, I do not doubt

*p cresc.* *mf* *mp*

65 *p* *rit. al fine* *pp reverently*

I am to meet you a - gain, I am to

*pp*

69

see to it that I do not lose you.

*decresc. poco a poco* *ppp*



## II. A Glimpse

Secretive ♩ = 116

*p*

A glimpse through an in-ter-stice caught, of a

*f* *pp*

5 *mp*

crowd of work-men and dri-vers in a bar - room a - round the stove,

9 *p* *mf*

late of a win-ter night, And I un - re - mark'd

*mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Ped.

13

8

seat - ed in a cor - ner; A glimpse of a

*p*

*p* *f* *pp*

17

8

youth who loves me, and whom I love, si-lent - ly ap-proach ing,

21

8

and seat-ing him-self near, that he may hold me by the

*mf*

3 3

23 *f*

hand; A long while, a - mid the

*mf* *mp*

25 *mp*

nois - es of com - ing and go - ing, of drink-ing and oath and smut-ty

*f* *p*

28 *f* *ff*

jest, There we two, con - tent,

*f* *ff* *mf cresc.* *ff*

Red.

Slightly broad ♩ = 104

33 *f* fondly *rit.* *mp*

hap - py in being to - ge - ther, \_\_\_\_\_ speak-ing

*mf* dolce

*Ped.*

38 whispered *p* *pp*

lit - tle, per - haps not a word. ATTACCA

*p* *ppp* 8<sup>va</sup>

ATTACCA

## III. Oh you whom I often and silently come

Nostalgic ♩ = 66

*p warmly*

Oh

*pp* *sempre legato e espressivo* *mp*

7

you \_\_\_\_\_ whom I of - ten and si - lent - ly come \_\_\_\_\_ where you

*p* *mp*

11

are, \_\_\_\_\_ that I \_\_\_\_\_ may be with you; \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

accel. . . . .

15 *mp* *mf*

that I may be with you \_\_\_\_\_ as I

*p* *mf*

19 *p*

walk by your side, \_\_\_\_\_ or sit near, \_\_\_\_\_ or re-main in the same room \_\_\_\_\_ with

*p*

23 *mf* *f*

you, \_\_\_\_\_ Lit- tle you know \_\_\_\_\_ the sub - tle \_\_\_\_\_ e -

*mf cresc.* *f* *p*

♩ = 90

**rit.** .....

27 *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

8 lec - tric fire \_\_\_\_\_ that for your sake is play - ing, play -

*cresc. poco a poco*

30 *ff* **Gently** ♩ = 66

8 - ing with - in me. \_\_\_\_\_

*f cresc.* *ff* *mp*

35 *pp* *distantly* *mp*

8 Oh \_\_\_\_\_ you

*pp* *8vb*

40 *pp* *p* *mp*

you

play as written and hum  
in a comfortable octave

*p cantabile* *pp*

44 *ppp* hum *p* *pp* **molto rit. al fine**

piano: fade out until only humming humming only

*p* *pp*

49 *ppp* *decresc. al niente*

*ppp* *decresc. al niente*