

JULIANA HALL

THE MYSTIC TRUMPETER

Setting for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, or Tenor and Piano

Based on the Poem by Walt Whitman

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THE MYSTIC TRUMPETER

*was written for tenor Anthony Dean Griffey, who premiered it with pianist Warren Jones on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at the Source Song Festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
My love and gratitude to Tony and Warren for their sterling performance, and to Source Song Festival Artistic Director Clara Osowski for hosting the premiere of this piece.*

—Juliana Hall

Cover design by David Sims.

TEXT

I

Hark! some wild trumpeter—some strange musician,
vibrates capricious tunes to-night.
I hear thee, trumpeter—I catch thy notes,
whirling like a tempest around me,
Now in the distance lost.

II

Come nearer, bodiless one—haply, in thee resounds
Some dead composer—
That now, ecstatic ghost, close to me bending,
Gives out to no one's ears but mine—
That I may translate thee.

III

Blow, trumpeter, free and clear—
A holy calm descends, like dew, upon me,
I walk the walks of Paradise,
I scent the grass, the moist air, and the roses;
Thy song expands my spirit—
Floating and basking upon Heaven's lake.

IV

Blow again, trumpeter!
Bring the old pageants—show the feudal world.
What charm thy music works!—
the troubadours are singing,
Arm'd knights go forth to redress wrongs—
I see the tournament—
I hear the shouts—the sound of blows and smiting steel:
I see the Crusaders' tumultuous armies—
Hark! how the cymbals clang!
Lo! where the monks walk in advance, bearing
the cross on high!

V

Blow again, trumpeter! and for thy theme,
Love, that is pulse of all—the sustenance and the pang;
No other theme but love—
Love, that is all the earth to lovers—
Love, that is sun and moon and stars;
No other thought but Love.

VI

Blow again, trumpeter—conjure war's wild alarms.
a shuddering like distant thunder
where arm'd men hasten—mid the clouds of dust,
the glint of bayonets;
the grime-faced cannoniers—I mark the rosy flash amid
the smoke—I hear the
cracking of the guns:
thy fearful music brings every sight of fear,
behold the terrible tableaux!

VII

O trumpeter! methinks I am myself the instrument thou playest!
Thou melt'st my heart, my brain—
thy sullen notes send darkness through me;
Thou takest away all hope:
I see the enslaved, the overthrown, the hurt, the opprest
the shame and humiliation of my race—
Utter defeat upon me weighs—
(Yet Pride colossal stands,
Endurance, resolution, to the last.)

VIII

Now, trumpeter,
Sing to my soul—
give me some vision of the future;
Give me, for once, its prophecy and joy!
O glad, exulting, culminating song!
Marches of victory—
Hymns to the universal God, from universal Man—all joy!
A reborn race appears, a perfect World, all joy!
Women and Men, in wisdom, innocence and health—
War, sorrow, suffering gone—
The ocean fill'd with joy—the atmosphere all joy!
Joy! Joy! in freedom, worship, love! Joy in the ecstasy of life!
Enough to merely be! Enough to breathe!
Joy! Joy! all over Joy!

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for Anthony Dean Griffey, with great admiration

The Mystic Trumpeter

for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, or Tenor and Piano

Walt Whitman

Juliana Hall (ASCAP)

I

With delicacy and wonder ♩ = 96

3

5

mp

Hark! some wild

loco

p

Performance note: A double barline separates each of the eight sections of *The Mystic Trumpeter*. Proceeding from one section to the next, performers may take a very brief pause, if desired, but any pause taken should not be significantly long enough that any section will feel as though it is a separate “song” but, rather, the entire work must be performed so as to feel that it is a single-movement composition comprised of eight connected, cohesive, and related sections.

Text: Adapted from “The Mystic Trumpeter” by Walt Whitman (1819–1892). First published in *Kansas Magazine* February 1872 (PD).

7 *p*

trum - pet - er - some strange mu -

Sea- tr loco

9 *mp*

si - cian, vi - brates ca -

11

pri - cious tunes to - night.

II

27 An apparition appears ♩ = 50

pp

Musical score for measures 27-28. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "An apparition appears" and "Come". The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with multiple voices and a *pp* dynamic marking.

29

near - - er, bod - i - less

Musical score for measures 29-30. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "near - - er, bod - i - less". The piano accompaniment includes a *8va* marking and a *pp* dynamic marking.

31

one - hap - ly,

♩ = 54

p

Musical score for measures 31-32. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "one - hap - ly,". The piano accompaniment includes a *8va* marking, a *loco* marking, and a *p* dynamic marking.

34

in thee re - sounds _____ Some dead _____

37

com - pos - er _____

39

That now, _____

57 With a sense of inner peace and calm joy ♩ = 80

Musical score for measures 57-59. The score is in 4/4 time and features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 80. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piano part begins with a *p* dynamic. The vocal line starts with a whole note rest in measure 57, followed by a half note in measure 58, and a quarter note in measure 59. The piano accompaniment consists of a sustained chord in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand.

60

Musical score for measures 60-62. The score continues with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tempo remains ♩ = 80. The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piano part includes a *mp* dynamic marking. The vocal line has a whole note rest in measure 60, followed by a half note in measure 61, and a quarter note in measure 62. The piano accompaniment features a *sva* (sustained) marking in measure 61 and a *loco* marking in measure 62. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Blow," in measure 62.

63

Musical score for measures 63-65. The score continues with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tempo remains ♩ = 80. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat). The piano part includes a *pp* dynamic marking. The vocal line has a whole note rest in measure 63, followed by a half note in measure 64, and a quarter note in measure 65. The piano accompaniment features a *Red.* marking in measure 65. The vocal line includes the lyrics "trum - pet - er," in measure 65.

67

free

loco

71

and clear -

A

75

ho - ly calm de - scends, like dew, up -

IV

107 Festive, regal, and majestic ♩ = 112

Musical score for measures 107-110. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Festive, regal, and majestic' with a quarter note equal to 112. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features triplets and dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*. The vocal line begins with a rest. The piano part ends with a fermata and a double bar line.

110

Musical score for measures 110-112. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Festive, regal, and majestic' with a quarter note equal to 112. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features triplets and dynamic markings of *f* and *mf*. The vocal line has the lyrics 'Blow a - gain,'. The piano part ends with a fermata and a double bar line.

113

Musical score for measures 113-115. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Festive, regal, and majestic' with a quarter note equal to 112. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features triplets and dynamic markings of *p*. The vocal line has the lyrics 'trum - pet - er!'. The piano part ends with a fermata and a double bar line.

116 *mp*

Bring the old pag - eants - show the feu - dal

119

world. What

122

charm thy mu - sic works! -

161 Tenderly, with warmth ♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 161-163. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a whole rest. The middle staff is the right hand of a piano, starting with a *pp* dynamic and playing a melodic line with a slur. The bottom staff is the left hand, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and some grace notes. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 60.

164

p

Musical score for measures 164-166. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with the lyrics "Blow a - gain,". The middle staff is the right hand of a piano, playing a melodic line with a slur. The bottom staff is the left hand, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and some grace notes. The dynamic is marked as *p*.

167

mp

Musical score for measures 167-169. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with the lyrics "trum - pet - er! and for thy theme, ____". The middle staff is the right hand of a piano, playing a melodic line with a slur. The bottom staff is the left hand, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and some grace notes. The dynamic is marked as *mp*.

170

Love, — that is pulse — of all — the

173

sus - te - nance and the pang; —

176

p

No oth - er theme — but love —

pp

198 In growing horror $\text{♩} = 84$

Musical score for measures 198-199. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 84$. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *mp*.

200

Musical score for measures 200-201. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The piano part features a complex chordal texture in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

202

Musical score for measures 202-203. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Blow a - gain, trum - - pet - er -". The piano part features a complex chordal texture in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *f*.

204 *mp* *f*

con - jure war's wild a -

p *mf*

8vb *loco*

206 *ff*

lar - ums.

f *ff*

8vb

207 *mp* *mf*

a shud - der - ing like dis - tant thun - der

pp

loco

234 Contemplative, introspective ♩ = 63

Contemplative, introspective ♩ = 63

pp *ppp* *loco*

8va-
R.H.
L.H. 6
L.H. 6
R.H.
L.H. 6
L.H. 6
R.H.

237

p

R.H.
L.H. 6
R.H.
L.H. 6
L.H. 6
R.H.

239

p *p*

O - trum - pet - er! me -

loco *p*

loco

243

mf

thinks I _____ am my - self the in - stru - ment thou _____ play - est! _____

mf

loco

(8^{vb})

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 243, 244, and 245. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *loco*. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. There are performance instructions for the 8^{vb} and *Red.* parts.

246

mp

Thou melt'st _____ my heart, _____

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 246, 247, and 248. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one flat. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present, and a *p* marking appears in the piano part.

249

my brain — thy

Detailed description: This system contains measures 249, 250, and 251. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one flat.

VIII

287 Entreating ♩ = 69

mp

Now, trum - pet - er,

Entreating ♩ = 69

mp *p*

289

Sing to my soul—

291

give me some vi - sion of the

293

fu - ture; Give me,

Musical score for measures 293-294. The vocal line features the lyrics "fu - ture; Give me,". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line of eighth notes and triplets, and a left hand with a bass line of quarter notes. A crescendo hairpin is present above the first measure.

295

for once, its

mf

Musical score for measures 295-296. The vocal line features the lyrics "for once, its". The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking is placed above the second measure.

297

proph - e - cy and joy!

f

mf

f

loco

8^{vb} | Red.

Musical score for measures 297-298. The vocal line features the lyrics "proph - e - cy and joy!". The piano accompaniment features a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A *loco* marking is present in the left hand of the first measure. A section marked "8^{vb} | Red." is indicated at the bottom.