

# Four Beautiful Songs

## I. Ode on "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

Poems by Lee Upton

Kirk O'Riordan (2017)

with energy (♩ = 126)

Musical score for Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The piano part begins with a forte (f) dynamic and a 'senza Ped.' instruction. The vocal parts have rests in the first two measures, followed by a 'hushed, pulsed' section starting in the third measure with a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic.

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the lyrics "Partners". The vocal parts (Sop. and Mezzo.) are marked mezzo-forte (mf) and feature a long note with a slur. The piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern. The lyrics are: Par - ty go - - - - - ers, \_\_\_\_\_

Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (flats and naturals). The left hand plays a similar rhythmic pattern, often in octaves or with a similar intervallic structure. The overall texture is dense and rhythmic.

Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

fos - ter chil - dren \_\_\_\_\_ of

fos - ter chil - dren \_\_\_\_\_ of

The vocal parts now have lyrics. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a long note on 'dren' and a final note on 'of'. The Mezzo part has a similar melodic line. The piano accompaniment continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern as in the previous system.

Sop. Xan - ax, \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo. Xan - ax, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

Sop. a - round \_\_\_\_\_ and a - round \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo. a - round \_\_\_\_\_ and a - round \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

## II. The Age of Beauty

freely (♩ = 76)

*mp*

Soprano

*p*

Mezzo-soprano

*mp*

Piano

*Red. sempre*

I hope we can res-cue Beau-ty

I hope we can res - cue Beau - ty

Sop.

*p*

Mezzo.

*mp*

Pno.

*mf*

from the moun - tain pass parts of him

from the moun - tain pass. be-fore parts of him

Sop. \_\_\_\_\_ are to be sewn shut, \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo. \_\_\_\_\_ are to be sewn shut, \_\_\_\_\_ for he is

Pno. *mp*

Sop. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* on the moun - tain. \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo. beau - ti - ful \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *mp*

**A**

Sop.  They \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo. 

Pno. 

Sop.  e - ven the soap \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo.  say \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. 

full Ped.  
let chord tones resonate



gently, freely (♩ = 52)

Soprano *p*  
That beau - ti - ful \_\_\_\_\_ thing you did \_\_\_\_\_ that

Mezzo-soprano *p*  
That beau - ti - ful \_\_\_\_\_ thing you did \_\_\_\_\_ that

*not metered, but together:  
a three-person cadenza*

Piano *p*

*Ped. sempre (clear as needed, but maintain resonance)*

Sop.  
no one knows a - bout \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzo.  
no one knows a - about \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

*bell-like*

Sop. *or for - got*

Mezzo. *or for - got* *or*

Pno. *crystalline, not with singers*

Sop. *or no one cares for* (r) *it's* *slower pp*

Mezzo. *no one cares for* (r) *it's* *pp*

Pno. *p*



**A**

tempo primo (♩ = 52)

Sop. there al - ways: \_\_\_\_\_ light, \_\_\_\_\_ grai-ny light \_\_\_\_\_ it's there

Mezzo. there al - ways: \_\_\_\_\_ light, \_\_\_\_\_ grai-ny light \_\_\_\_\_ it's there

Pno. *ppp*  
*una corda*

Sop. \_\_\_\_\_ in that high room \_\_\_\_\_ as a light \_\_\_\_\_


Mezzo. \_\_\_\_\_ in that high room \_\_\_\_\_ as a light \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

IV. The Blouse

delicately, with sadness (♩. = 76)

Soprano



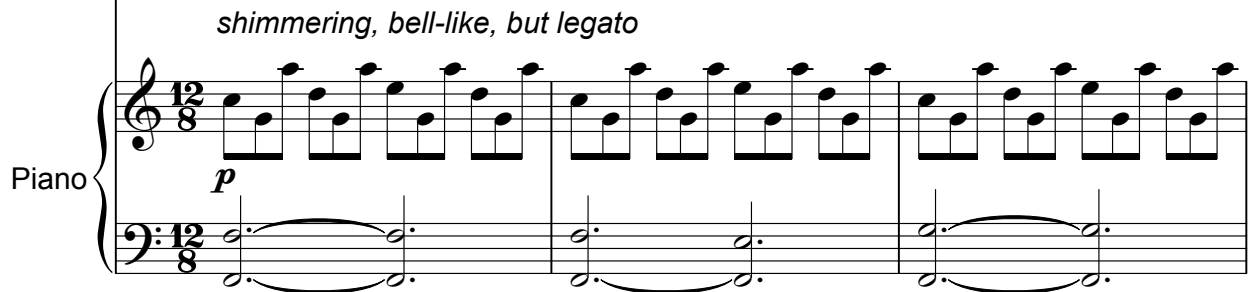
Mezzo-soprano



Piano

*shimmering, bell-like, but legato*

*p*



*ped. lightly for top-voice resonance; clear as needed*

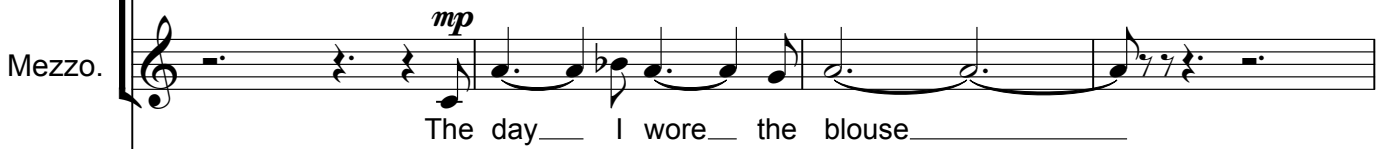
Sop.



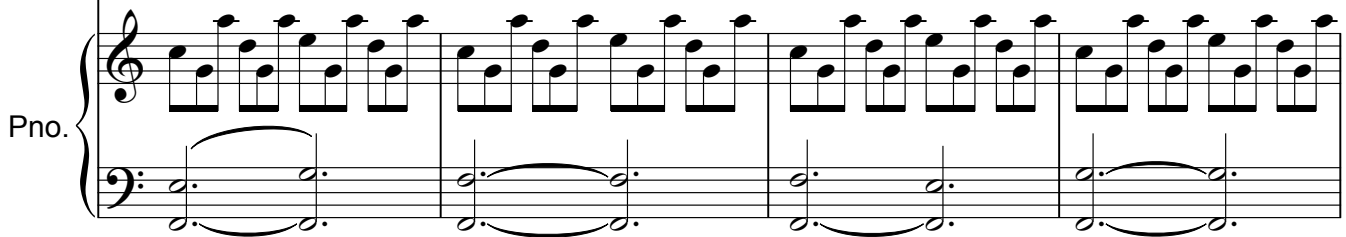
Mezzo.

*mp*

The day\_\_ I wore\_\_ the blouse\_\_\_\_\_



Pno.



Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

both men\_\_\_\_\_ who did-n't care for me\_\_\_\_\_ the

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The Soprano staff has three measures of whole rests. The Mezzo-soprano staff has three measures of music with lyrics: "both men" (first measure), "who did-n't care for me" (second measure), and "the" (third measure). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with eighth-note chords and a left-hand part with sustained chords.

Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

day be-fore\_\_\_\_\_ both,\_\_\_\_\_ as if

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The Soprano staff has three measures of whole rests. The Mezzo-soprano staff has three measures of music with lyrics: "day be-fore" (first measure), "both," (second measure), and "as if" (third measure). The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note and sustained chord patterns as in the first system.

Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

rea-ding from the same script, \_\_\_\_\_ said: |

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The Soprano staff has three whole rests. The Mezzo-soprano staff begins with two eighth notes beamed together, each marked with a '2' above it. The lyrics 'rea-ding from the same script, \_\_\_\_\_ said: |' are written below the staff. The Piano part consists of a right-hand melody of eighth notes and a left-hand accompaniment of quarter notes.

Sop.

Mezzo.

Pno.

did-n't re - cog-nize \_\_\_\_\_ you to - day. \_\_\_\_\_ In

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The Soprano staff has three whole rests. The Mezzo-soprano staff continues with eighth notes and lyrics 'did-n't re - cog-nize \_\_\_\_\_ you to - day. \_\_\_\_\_ In'. The Piano part continues with a similar eighth-note melody in the right hand and quarter-note accompaniment in the left hand.