

Another Time

For Voice, Violin, and Cello

Lawrence Kramer

2011-12

I. A Winter Night

The streets ran like silent movies: creamy
drifts looping and fluffing into sail shapes,
wing shapes, chimeras and curvets,
cheeks scrawled with cold along

capped rises, bosomy swells:
quiet the street, quiet the wind,
quiet the shapes of houses barely seen.
Eden's lost winter had come at last.

II. Another Winter

In the whip of the air I caught glimpses
of the hammocks and cats of the winds,
the Chippendales of ices and dews,
the soft carved handrails of absence,

the still stones of nonentity, the salmon runs
of the earth's magnetic field and sinuous
tree limbs like Pompeian sculptures linked
in the postures of Eros, draped

by silk scarves and ironwork vines
taut beneath the lintel of flames they said
were the winter stars, those bright eyes
blind to us and ours and that other stillness

veiled behind faces of sleepers on trains
gone puffy and slack: the day's bare ration
of small things like sprigs or bangles that shine
and get into trouble, like living creatures.

III. Another Time

Blowing curtains, for instance,
in light breezes or the wet, fierce
gusting of the west wind, no matter,
they catch your breath, like sudden

passing tones or quick bright
phrases you don't quite understand.
So bunches of wildflowers; or bridges;

or a dappled filly I saw once who
rolled herself thoughtfully
in the grass. They're easy to forget.

We have enough to do, what
with time and tide, and fear and
trembling and all, but these things

refuse our betrayals. They confide
like names in the garden, only slowly.
Like ourselves they never trust us fully.
It's we who must trust them. With thanks.

--Texts by the composer.

Duration: 14 minutes

I. A Winter Night

Cantabile

♩ = 76

Voice

Cello

p

6

6

p

10

10

fp

14

14

pizz.

arco

3

3

19 From rear (behind audience) Begins slow approach to cellist.

The streets ran like si-lent mov-ies, cream-y drifts

19 pizz. arco

loop-ing and fluff-ing in-to sail shapes, wing shapes,

23

chi-me-ras and cur-vets,

26 *f p f p* 5

Reaches position
next to cellist.

humming- ah

30 3

33 *f* *rit.*

33 *f* *sfz* *mf* *f* *p*

36 *a tempo*

cheeks scrawled with cold a-long

36 *f*

39 capped ri - ses, bo-som-y

sul tasto

39 *fp*

43 swells, Behind the bridge

slide bow slowly molto sul tasto flautato Behind the bridge

molto sul tasto whispery

43 *pp* *ppp* *pp*

47

47

sul tasto ordin.
sul G-----, ordin.

Qui - et the street,

p *p*

51

51

Qui - et the wind,

sul tasto

pp *pizz.*

56

56

qui - et the shapes of hous - es bare - ly seen.

rit. *a tempo*

pizz. trem. *pizz.* *arco ordin.*

p

61

61

E - den's lost win - ter had come at last.

Adagio

fp *f* *p* *flautato*

II. Another Winter

$\text{♩} = 96$

System 1:

Voice: In the

Violin: (rest)

Cello (Without bow): *pizz.* *p*

System 2:

Voice: whip of the air I caught glimpses of the

Violin: (rest)

Cello (Without bow): *sfz*

System 3:

Voice: ham-mocks and cats of the winds, the Chip-pen-dales of i-ces and

Violin: (rest)

Cello (Without bow): (triplets)

13

dews. _____
From the distance.*

Approaching the others.**

pp

3

3

19

26

the soft carved hand-rails _____

* From the rear of the hall or the stage.
If possible, the player unseen at first.

** Repeat the two measures as needed
with small variations in duration,
bowing, and dynamics until reaching
the others; then continue.

31

of ab - sence,

p

arpeggio roll = strum

35

the still stones of non - en - ti - ty,

p

39

the sal - mon runs of the earth's mag - ne - tic

fz

jazz bass

poco riten. a tempo

43

field, and sin - u - ous tree limbs

fp

47

like Pom - pei - an sculp - tures linked

fp

50

in the pos - tures of Er - os,

fp

54

draped _____ by

f *p* *f*

57

silk scarves _____ and iron-work vines _____

p

sul pont.

61

taut _____ be - neath the lin - tel of flames _____

fp *f*

ff *f*

64

they said were the win -

ff *fff*

67

ter stars.

ff *fff*

70

those bright eyes blind to

f *p* *fp*

74

us and ours, _____ and that o - ther still - ness

74

74

p

79

_____ veiled _____ be-hind fac-es of sleep - ers on trains gone

79

79

84

puf - fy and slack:

84

84

(mute on) Con sord.

89

the day's bare ra-tion of small things

(mute off) Senza sord.

94

like sprigs or

col legno batt.

97

bang - les that shine, that shine

101

arco
sul tasto
sul G

ordin.

fp *pp*

knock lightly on body of instrument
(no fingering)

107

rit.

trou - ble _____ like liv - ing crea - tures. _____

107 col legno batt.

107

III. Another Time

♩ = 42

Voice

Violin

Cello

p

p

sul tasto

ordin.

sul G

3

3

3

4

4

4

sul D

7

7

7

Blow - ing cur - tains, _____ for in - stance, _____

p

pp

8

in light breezes or the wet, fierce

p

3

9

gust - ing of the west wind,

p

3

10

no mat-ter, they catch your breath,

pp

pp

3

3

13 *rit.*

like sud - den pas - sing tones, _____ or

p

15 *a tempo*

quick bright phras - es _____ you don't quite un - der - stand. _____

pp

17 *rit.* *a tempo*

So

p

19 *3*

bun-ches of wild flowers, or brid - es, — or a dap-pled fil - ly

pp *p*

pp

22

I saw once, who rolled her-self thought - ful-ly in the grass.

p *pp*

p *pp*

25

They're ea - sy — to for - get.

pp *pp*

pp

28

We have e - nough to do, what with

sul G sul D

p

31

time and tide and fear and tremb - ling and

sul G

33

all,

flautato

pizz.

♩ = 60

p

34

But these things re - fuse _____ our be-tray - als.

pp

arco flautato

pp

p

8^{va}

pizz.

rit.

38

Con sord. ordin.

p *espress.*

♩ = 42

38

They con-fide, like

sul G sul D

Con sord. arco

p

42

names in the gar - den, _____ on - ly slow - ly. _____

fp *pp* sul G

44

Like our - selves they ne - ver trust us ful - ly. _____

fp *pp*

45

It's we who

p *pva* flautato

47

must trust them With thanks. ____

(8va)

ordin.
sul D sul G

espress.

51

51

pizz.