

In memory of Mrs Lillian Tertis (1915-2009), professional cellist and widow of Lionel Tertis, renowned viola player.

# Three Paul Verlaine Songs

for mezzo-soprano, viola and piano (2009 - 11')

Roger STEPTOE (\*1953)

Word by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)

## I. La lune blanche

**Lento e con espressione**

Mezzo-soprano

Viola

Piano

*mp molto cant.*

Detailed description: This block shows the first system of the musical score. It includes staves for Mezzo-soprano, Viola, and Piano. The tempo and mood are 'Lento e con espressione'. The piano part features a melodic line with triplets and a dynamic marking of 'mp molto cant.'. The Mezzo-soprano and Viola parts are mostly rests in this section.

*mp espr.*

La lune blanche Luit dans les bois;

*mf*

*mf espr.*

*mp* *dim.* *p*

*mp* *p*

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal entry and the beginning of the piano accompaniment. The Mezzo-soprano part has the lyrics 'La lune blanche Luit dans les bois;'. The piano part has a dynamic marking of 'mf' and 'mp espr.'. The piano part features a melodic line with triplets and a dynamic marking of 'mp' and 'p'. The Mezzo-soprano part has a dynamic marking of 'mf' and 'mp espr.'. The piano part has a dynamic marking of 'mp' and 'p'. The piano part features a melodic line with triplets and a dynamic marking of 'mp' and 'p'.

chaque branche Part une voix Sous la ra-

*mf* *mp*

*mp* *mf* *p* *p cant.*

6 *l.v.* *p*

mée... Oh bien - ai - mée.

*poco rit.* *Poco più lento* *p*

*pp sub.* *p*

9 *poco rit.* *Poco più lento* *p trasparente*

*pp > niente*

L'é tang re - flète

*Tempo primo mp*

*mp cant.*

14 *8va* *Tempo primo loco* *p* *po*

*con ped.* *3* *cant.*

**A tempo** *mf espr.* *mp*

Pro - fond mi - roir, La sil - hou ette Du saule noir OÙ le vent

*mp espr.* *p*

20 **A tempo** *p*

l.v. l.v.

*p* *(p)* **poco rall.** **A tempo**

pleure... Ré - vons, c'est l'heure.

26 **poco rall.** **A tempo** *mp* *cre*

*f*

Un vaste et ten - dre A - païse ment

34 *f* *mf* *con Ped.*

*mp* C'est l'heure ex - quise, ex quise. *niente*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *niente*

49 l.v. *p* *pp* *dim. al niente*

## II. Il pleut doucement sur la ville

Vivace (♩ = ♩)

Vivace (♩ = ♩)

*mf*

57 *mf* Il pleure dans mon cœur Comme il

*f* *fz* l.v. l.v.

ville

63

*f* ritmico

*dim.*

67

*cresc.*

*f*

**Poco libertà**

lan - gueur

Qui pé - nè - tre mon cœur?

**Poco libertà**

**poco**

**poco**

72

*mf*

8

R.H. over

A tempo

Musical score for measures 74-77. The top system consists of a single treble clef staff. The bottom system consists of a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4. Dynamics include *mp ma ritmico*, *fp*, *f*, and *mf*. A slur covers measures 75-77. Measure 77 includes the instruction "R.H. over".

78 A tempo

Musical score for measures 78-81. The top system consists of a single treble clef staff. The bottom system consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 6/8. Dynamics include *mf*. A slur covers measures 79-81. Measure 81 includes the instruction "R.H. over".

Musical score for measures 82-85. The top system consists of a single treble clef staff. The bottom system consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 6/8. Dynamics include *fp* and *fz*. A slur covers measures 83-85.

Musical score for measures 86-89. The top system consists of a single treble clef staff. The bottom system consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat. The time signature is 6/8. Dynamics include *mf*. A slur covers measures 86-89.

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de la pluie

*f*

92

*mf*

Par terre et sur les toits!

*mf* *f*

97

*f* *mf*

103

*sffp* *ff* *f* *sfz* *f*

*mp quasi sotto voce*

Pour un cœur qui s'en - nuie,

*mf ma ritmico*

*f*

108

114

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*poco*

Ô le chant

*f*

*poco*

118

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### III. Chanson d'Automne

Adagio

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a tempo marking of *Adagio* and dynamics of *mp solenne* and *sim.*. The second system includes the vocal line starting at measure 209 with lyrics "Les sang" and piano accompaniment with dynamics *mp molto pic* and *mf*. The third system includes the vocal line starting at measure 214 with lyrics "vi - o - lons De l'au - tomne Ble - ssent mon cœur D'une lan - gueur" and piano accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *sempre cresc.*. The score features complex piano textures with many chords and melodic lines, and the vocal line is in a 4/4 time signature.

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mf

Tout su - flo - quant Et blême, quand Sonne

pp mp mf molto cant.

218

mf

mp

l'heure, Je me sou - vi - ens Des jours

p

222

dim.

Et je pleure;

p (sub.)

225

l.v.

p