

SONGS OF REMINISCENCE

for Owen Brannigan OBE

1. A Christmas Childhood

Patrick Kavanagh
from *Collected Poems*
(published by MacGibbon and Kee)

Michael Head

Allegro moderato vigoroso ♩ = 84

(rhythmic) *mp* *mf*

Ped. *Ped.* *con Ped.*

5 *mf* *p*

My father played the me-lo - deon Out - side at our gate; There were

9 stars in the morn-ing east And they danced to his mu - sic,

p *con Ped.*

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They danced to his mu - sic.

mf

Out - side in the cow-house my mo-ther made the mu-sic of

p

f

p

milk - ing The light of her sta-ble lamp, was a star And the frost of

ten.

rall.

colla voce

Beth-le-hem made it twin - kle.

a tempo

pp

poco cresc.

senza Ped.

Ped.

30 *mp* *p*

Mass go-ing feet crunched the wa-fer ice on the pot-holes Some - bo-dy wist-ful-ly

con *And.*

33 *mf* *p* *sost. to, espressivo*

twis-ted the bel-lows wheel. y child p-icked out the let-ters on the

mf *pp* *armonioso*

37 *mf* *con.* *subito*

grey stone li-sh-er ver the won-der of a Chris-mas town-land, The wink-ing glit-ter of a

p subito *sfp*

41 *p* *And.* *Moderato (a little slower than tempo I)*

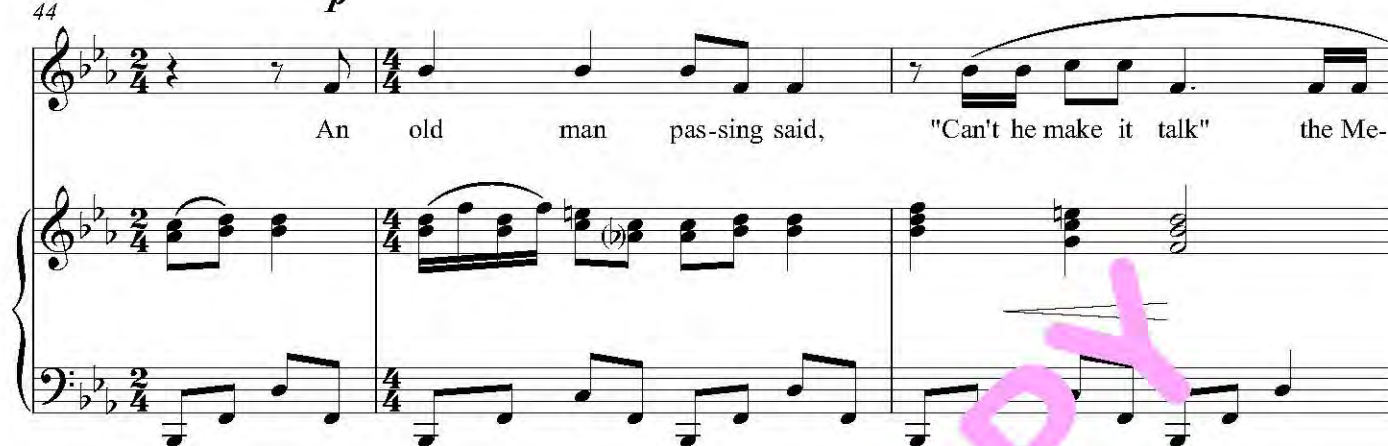
fros - ty dawn

pp *pp (leisurely)*

con *And.*

p

An old man pas-sing said, "Can't he make it talk" the Me-

*pp**pp mosso*

-lo - deon, the Me - lo-de I hid in the door-way, and

*cresc.*

tight - ened the belt of my box - pressed coat, I

*f*

nicked six nicks on the door - post With my pen - knife's big blade. And



7

rallen.

Tempo I

57

f

m

vigoroso

mf

220

Le

220.

60



—

rallen.

64

a tempo

ter

rallen.

blouse.

 $8va^-$ 8^{va-1}

pp

ppp

22

2. Memory of My Father

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Andantino tranquillo

p cantabile poco rubato

pp

5 *p*

E-very old man I see Re - minds me of my fa-ther When he had fal-len in love with death One

9

time when s... were gathered. That man saw in Gar-den-er Street stum-ble on the kerb was one,

14 *mf*

He stared at me half eyed, I might have been his son. And I re-mem-ber the mu-sic-ian

mf

17 *p* *dimin.* *p* *ten. ten.* 3

fal-tering o-ver his fid-dle in Bays-wa-ter, Lon-don. He too set me the rid-dle.

dimin. *p*

20 *mp* 3

E-very old man I see In Oc-to-ber col-oured wea-ther seems to say to me:

mp

24 *mf* *rall.* *p* *tf* 3 3

"I was once your fa-ther, I was once your fa-ther".

mf *p* *pp*

27 *p* *cantabile espressivo* *pp* *morendo* 3

3. If Ever You Go to Dublin Town

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Allegro ma non troppo

vigoroso
mf

7

If e-ver you go Dub-lin town In a hun-dred years or so In-quire for me in

13

p

Bag - got Street And what it was like to know. O he was a quare one Fol de dol the de di do

p

20

O he was a quare one I tell you.

25 *mp*

My great grand-mo-ther knew him well, He asked her to come and call On

30 *p*

him in his flat and giggled at the thought of a young girl's love-ly fall. O he was

35 *mf*

dan-gerous Fol de Col the de di do O he was dan-gerous I tell you.

42

mp
Go in-to a pub and lis-ten well If my voice still ech-oes

48

there, Ask the men what their grand-sir thought And tell them to ans - wer fair.

53

mp
O he was ec - cen - tric, Fol de dol the de di do, O he was ec - cen - tric I

59

p **rallen.**
tell you. He had the knack of mak-ing men feel as small as they real - ly were Which meant as great as

65 **a tempo**

God had made them But as males they dis-liked his air. O he was a proud one,—

70

Fol de dol the de di do O he was a proud one I tell you.—

77 *più f* *p* **rall.**

If e-ver you go to Dub-lin town In a hun-dred years or so Sniff for my per-son-

83 **a tempo** *pp*

- a - li-ty, Is it va-ni-ty's va-pour now? O he was a vain one,— Fol de dol the de di do

O he was a vain one I tell you. *piu f* He knew that pos-te-ri-ty

cresc. *piu f*

has no use For an - y-thing but the soul, *ra.* The l - i - n - e s that speak, the pas-sion-ate heart, The

to tempo spi-rit that lives a lone one *ten.* Fol de di the de di do Yet he lived

p. *p.*

rallen. *f* hap-pi-ly I tell you, yet he lived hap-pi-ly, hap-pi-ly I tell you.

f

4. My Room

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Moderato ♩ = circa 84

mp dolce

6 *p*

10 () 12 (twelve) and a low roof If I stand by the

poco rit. a tempo

11 side wall My head feels the re-proof.

mp p

16 **Tranquillo (sostenuto)**

15 *p*

Five ho - ly pic - tures Hang on the walls. The Vir - gin and child, St

p cantabile dolce

3

3

3

18

An - tho - ny of Pa - du - a, Le - o the XIII St Pat - rick and the lit - tle

thir - teen

rall.

3

21 *pp* *a ten.* *p*

flower. My

pp *p*

25

bed in the cen - tre So ma - ny things to me A din - ing

3

28

ta - ble A writ - ing desk And a slum - - - - - ber

32

pa-lace. *pp*, a tempo *p* My room in a dus-ty at-tic

36

But its lit - tle win - dow Lets in the

39

stars. *p* *pp*

mp *ppp*

5. The Rowley Mile

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Leisurely

p

4

As I was walk-ing down a street up on a sum-mer's day A

7

ten. *p*

ty - pi-cal girl I chanced to meet And ga-thered cou-age to say, "I've seen you ma - ny, ma - ny times Up

p

10 *rallen.* *a tempo*

-on this Row-ley Mile — And I'm fool-ish e-nough to be-lieve — you love me For you al-ways

ten. ten. ten. ten.

colla voce

13

smile." — ell, — she ga-thered her-self in-to a ball Re-

colla voce

16 *p*

-ced-ing the time. — She said, "I beg your par-don, I do not know what you mean", — I

colla voce

19 *ten. ten.*

stam-mered vain-ly for the right word, — I said: I mean to say, I'm not try-ing to get off — with you Or

p colla voce

colla voce

20

22

mp

a - ny-thing in that way. The

25

ten.

street was full of eyes that stared at some-thing ve - ry od I tried to i-ma-gine how lit-tle means such a

mp misterioso

28

ten. poco accel.

con - tre-ten to God. I fol-lowed her a few s-low yards "Please just one mo-ment stop" And

colla voce

31

rallen. a tempo rallen.

then I dashed with ur - gent tread in - to a cor - ner shop.

mf

Poco meno mosso

21

34 *p*

As I walked down that sun-ny street, I was a bro-ken man

37 *poco cresc.*

Thanks to an I - rish girl Who smiles but is true, is true to the plan

poco cresc.

39 *p*

Taught her by old Guin-ny Gran-ny You must try out your power with a smile, But

p

41 *rall.* *f* *a tempo*

come to the test hard re-ar - i - ty Must make the pace on the Row - ley Mile.

6. Plough Horses

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Andante tranquillo rallen. a tempo

mp cantabile
con Ped.

6 **Poco più mosso** ♩ = circa 80 *p*

Their glos-sy flanks and

9 *p*

manes shone the fly-ing splin-or of the sun. The

13 tran-quil rhy - thm. of that team Was as slow flow - ing mea - dow stream, As

p

17

slow flow - ing mea - dow stream. And I saw Phi-di-as - 's

21

ff *allarg.* *mp*

chi-sel there An o-cean stal-lion moun - in mare See - ing with eyes the

25

spi-rit un-sealed. Plough hor-ses in a qui-et field,

29

Lento
mp

Plough hor-ses on a qui - et field.

7. September Morning

Patrick Kavanagh

Michael Head

Allegretto comodo

cantabile
mp

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *sim.*

5 *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

On an ap - ple-ripe Sep - tem - ber mor - ning through the mist - chill fields I

p *Ped.* *

9 *mf*

went With a pitch-fork on my shoul - der Less for use than for de - vil - ment.

mf

13

The thresh - ing mill was set up, I knew, In

16

Cas-si-dy's hag-gard last night, And we owed them a day at the thresh-ing Since last

20

year. O it was de-light To be

f

8va

Ped.

24

pay-ing bills of health And chaf - fy gos-sin in and With work thrown in to bal-last The

27

(p) fan - ta-sy-ear-ing mind. As I crossed the wood-en bridge I

8va

cresc.

won-dered As I looked in - to the drain If e - ver a sum - mer mor - ning should

cresc.

*poco ritard.**a tempo*

find me Sho - velling up eels a - gain.

f

f

Più animato

And I thought of the wasp's nest in the bank And how I got chased one day

Leav - ing the drag - on, the scraw - knife be - hind, How I co - vered my face with hay. The

44 *poco tranquillo*

wet leaves of the cocks-foot Po-lished my boots as I Went round by the glis-ten-ing bog-holes

pp poco tranquillo

47 *f*

Lost in un-think-ing joy.

f

poco rit.

51 *a tempo*

mf

I'll be car-ry-ing bags to-day, I mused, The best job at the mill With plen-ty of time to

mf (heerfully)

55 *ten. ten.*

talk of our loves As we wait for the bags to fill.

(marcato)

28
60

più lento

p *pp*

May - be Ma - ry might call round... And then I came to the hag-gard gate, And I

p *pp tranquillo*

62

poco cresc.

knew_ as I en-tered that I had come Through filds that were part of no earth - ly es- tate, That

poco cresc.

65

ten. pp (allargando) *rallen.* *a tempo*

I had come Through fields that were part of no earth-ly es - tate.

pp cc i voce

8va

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

68

poco ritard.

dim. *pp*