
ROBERT G.
PATTERSON

Songs of Death and Digestion

for bass voice, bassoon, and contrabass

(1983)

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and Digestion**

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duration ca. 11 minutes

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for Larry Frazier and Ann Kosanovic

Songs of Death and Digestion

for bass voice, bassoon, and contrabass

Text
OGDEN NASH

Music
R. G. PATTERSON (1983)

Lather As You Go

Slow, dirgelike (♩=66)

Bass Voice *mf*
Be -

Bassoon *ppp* from nothing *f*

Contrabass *mf legato*

7
neath Be - - - neath this slab

mf legato *pizz.* *arco* *ppp*

14 *p cresc.* *mf*
John Brown is stowed.

mf *pp* *mf*

21 *p dolce*

Be-neath this slab John Brown John

mp cantabile

29

Brown is stowed. Be - neath this slab John

ppp *sul pont.* *f*

35 *mf* *f espr.*

Brown is Be -

mf *ord.* *p*

40 *p lightly, freely*

neath this slab John Brown is stowed. He watched the

f sost.

46

ads And not the road.

mf freely, rit. *p*

Geddondillo

Lightly, playfully, but not too fast (♩.=60) *mf* boisterously

Bass Voice

The shar - - - rot scud-ders nights in the

Bassoon

mf

Contrabass

mf

5

quas - tron now, The dor - - lim slinks un - de - ced - ed in the

f

f

10

p sub. grost, Ap - pe - ten - cy lights the corb of the

p

p sensuously

p

15

guz - zard now, The an - - - - - cient be - vel - dric is

p

p

20

ot-ley lost.

sfzp *mf*

25

p *leggiero*
Tre - du-ty flees like a dar-bit a-long the drace now, *p* Col - lo-dy

p *sub.* *pizz.* *pp* *mf* *p*

30

lol-lops be-lut - ed-ly o - ver the slawn. *mf* *vibrato repulsivo* The blood - bound bit -

pp *ffp* *mf* *expressivo* *arco* *mf*

35

- - ter-litch bays the os-trous moon now, For yes-ter-day's bay - a-ble ma -

40

p *Molto meno mosso* *pp* *mysteriously*
ji - cit-y is flunk - ly gone. Make way, make way, the

45

pre-luge is scar-ly nonce now, Make way, I say, the gron-der-ous De-mi-burge comes, the

rit. **Tempo primo** *f*

sfz *pp* *ff marc.* *ff*

50

gron-der-ous De-mi-burge comes, His blid-less veins shall ye — joi - ci-ly re-jug-u-late now, —

ff marc. *f* *ff* *ff marc.*

54

— And gol-li-fy him from 'twixt his pro - tech-er-ous gums.

p *p* *pizz.* *slow gliss.* *f* *arco* *f*

sfz *p* *f*

58

And gol-li-fy him from 'twixt his — pro-tech-er-ous gums.

pp *ff* *ff* *sfz* *pizz.*

ff *ff* *sfz*

The Screen with the Face with the Voice

Fast, with driving intensity (♩=144)

mf sobbing

Bass Voice

How long — Is a

Bassoon

sfz p marc. *ff* *mp* *ff*

(arco)

Contrabass

sfz *p marc.* *mp* *ff*

5 *poco meno mosso*
sfz p *p*

song? O Lord, How long? A

11 *a tempo*
intense

sec-ond? A min-ute? An hour? A day? A dec - ade? A cy - cle

16 *p with bravado*

of Ca-thay? Press the ears With oc-clu-sive

20 *mp moaning* *p intense*

fin-gers; The whin-ing mel - o-dy Lin-gers, lin - gers; The mouth-ing

24 *molto*

face Will not be hid, But leers at the eye From the in - ner lid.

28 poco meno mosso

poco rit.

meno mosso (♩=92)

28 poco meno mosso

poco rit.

meno mosso (♩=92)

f *sfz* *ff* *pp*

33

*pp**cresc. poco a poco*

33 *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

With the sure ad - vance of ul - ti - mate doom The moan - ing man - di - bles larg - er loom; The

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

38

*mf**dim.**pp*

poco rit.

38 *mf* *dim.* *pp* poco rit.

sev - en - foot eye - brows fall and rise In ro - guish rap - ture or sad sur -

mf *dim.*

43 meno mosso (♩=56)

quasi recit.

p

43 meno mosso (♩=56) quasi recit. *p*

prise; Eye - balls roll_ with fine e -

p espr.

espr.

47

*in tempo**in tempo**mp*

47 *in tempo* *in tempo* *mp*

mo - tion, Like buoys rocked by a trea - cle o - cean; Tugged like the bell above the

mf

mf

51 ³ *mp* *in tempo*

chap - - - el, Toss - es the gi-ant Ad-am's ap - - - ple;

mf *pizz.* *f*

Repeat E to G slur for indicated duration

53 *pp legato*

Ooz-es the voice from the mag-ic screen, A slow Ni - ag - a - ra

freely *arco* *pp* *sul pont.* *col legno ord.*

57 *molto espr.* *ff*

of Gren-a - dine; A fren - zy — of ripe — or-gi -

(in time) *col legno ord.* *ff*

61 *molto tenuto* *in tempo* *p*

as - - - tic pain, Ni - ag - a - ra gur - - gl-ing

mp *freely* *col legno* *p*

65 *Tempo primo* (♩=144)

down a drain. —

pp *ord.* *pp* *pp*

70 *p*

How long ——— Is a song?

pp *mp*

75 *mf* *sfz* *poco meno mosso*

O Lord, ——— How long? ———

mf *ff* *sffp*

sul pont.

80 *p* *a tempo*

As long as Loew, And Keith, — And Al - bee; It Was, And Is, —

ord. *p*

84 *mp leggiero*

—And Always Shall Be. This is the string Time may not sever, This is the music that

f

89 *f*

lasts for-ev-er, This is the Womb, This is the Tomb, This is Alpha, O-me-ga, and Oom! The eyes, the eyes shall

f

94 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

fol-low you! The throat, the throat shall swal-low you! Hy-gien-ic teeth shall wolf you! And vis-cous voice en-

99 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

gulf you! The lol-lop-ing tongue it-self an-swer your ques-tion! The Ad-am's Ap-ple dance at your in-ges-tion!

103 *ff*

And you shall nev - er die, but live to

107 *molto rit.*

nour-ish the bowels Of death - less cel - lu - loid

111 *fff*

vowels.

fff *freely, with a blues feel* *p* *ff* *sul pont.*

