

Fatherly Reflections

1. Lullaby

music by Thomas Lloyd

poetry by Karl Kirchwey

Lullaby

The sky is an oval box of blues.
Light fades from a yellow-painted case

of Shaker drawers, the knobs' dark wood
like night to organize day's façade.

The wrist of birch in a bed of fern
is pale like yours on the counterpane¹.

There are leaves of shale in the cut of the road;
their pages crumble while I read

and the pasture listens, bedstraw with
its axil² full of spittlebug³ froth.

The self-heal⁴, purple on its square stem,
flares in an acre, a golden frame

bought from the world at dusk. A veery⁵
in parallel thirds throws its song away,

and the dandelion's gray head is blown to seed
in the lower pasture where you were made.

¹ *counterpane*: a bedspread

² *axil*: the upper angle between a leaf stalk or branch and the stem or trunk from which it is growing

³ *spittlebug*: a jumping, plant-sucking insect (also called froghopper), whose larva produces a frothy mass on plants

⁴ *self-heal*: a purple-flowered plant of the mint family traditionally used as an herbal medicine

⁵ *veery*: a North American woodland thrush and songbird; this song incorporates an adaptation of the veery's song as transcribed by F. Schuyler Mathews at <http://www.math.sunysb.edu/~tony/birds/music/veery.html>

Fatherly Reflections

2. September

music by Thomas Lloyd

poetry by Karl Kirchwey

September

Valley Forge, a last picnic at sunset.

We are the four corners of the known world.

Briefly we stretch and touch on an old blanket,
father, mother, child and younger child.

The empty fields will all go starveling now,
around that stone house and its whitewashed wall.

A smell of summer dust prevails, but also
something later, drier, more corruptible,

that goads us, mute with our dilated vision,
to find a way across the crumbling dark.

And though, because it will be closing soon,
rows of headlights stream out of the park,

the only things with light still left in them
are tufts of milkweed in their blackened pods,
each twisted, burst, split open on its stem
around a sky-soaked filament, a luminous floss.

Fatherly Reflections

1) Lullaby

Karl Kirchwey

Thomas Lloyd

$\text{♩} = 80$

The sky _____ is an oval box of blues. Light fades _____ from a

ff *f* *mf*

15^{ma} *8^{va}*

Ped. In the first five bars, right hand chords should be rolled ahead of the beat.

7

yel-low-pain-ted case of Sha-ker drawers, the knobs' dark wood like night to or-ga-nize day's fa-

p *pp*

Ped.

11

cade. The wrist of birch in a bed of fern is

p

Ped.

15

pale like yours _____ on the coun-ter-pane. There are leaves of shale in the cut of the road their pa-ges

p *loco*

8^{va}

Ped.

19

8
crum-ble while I read and the pas-ture li-stens, bed-straw with its ax-il full

8^{va}

Ped.

23

8
of spit-tle-bug froth. The self-heal,

(8)-----|

15^{ma}

26

8
pur-ple on its square stem, flares in an

3

3

28

a - cre, a gol - den frame bought from the

30

world at dusk.

Ped.

33

a vee-ry

8va

15ma

36

8 in pa - ral - lel thirds throws its song a - way_

38

8 and the dan-de-lion's grey head is blown to seed, is

41

8 blown to seed, in the lo - wer pa - sture_ where you were

44

8 made, where you were made,

molto rall.....

15^{ma} (quick roll) **ppp**

attacca

Fatherly Reflections

2) September

Karl Kirchwey

Thomas Lloyd

$\text{♩} = 52$

Val-ley Forge, a last
pic-nic at sun-set We are the four cor-ners of the known world,
Brief-ly we stretch and touch on an old
blan-ket, fa-ther, mo-ther, child and youn-ger child

25

rup ti-ble, that goads us, mute with our di-la-ted vi-sion, to find a way a cross the crum-bling

This system contains measures 25 through 28. The vocal line features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 25 and a triplet of quarter notes in measure 26. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with triplets in the left hand.

29

dark, the crum-bling dark, And though, be cause it will be clo-sing soon,

This system contains measures 29 through 31. The vocal line has a melodic line with a quarter rest in measure 29. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns and triplets in the left hand.

32

rows of head-lights stream out of the park,

This system contains measures 32 through 34. The vocal line features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 32. The piano accompaniment includes a complex eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with triplets in the left hand.

35

the on-ly things with light still left in them

This system contains measures 35 through 37. The vocal line has a melodic line with a quarter rest in measure 35 and triplets of eighth notes in measures 36 and 37. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with triplets in the left hand.

38

are tufts of milk-weed in their black-ened pods, — each twist - ed, burst, split

41

o - pen on — its stem a - round a sky - soaked fi - la - ment, a -

43

rall.

round a sky-soaked fi-la-ment, a lu-mi-nous floss.

a tempo

46

rall.