

Six Little Songs

for voice and sextet



Music by **Steve Danyew** | Text by **Ashley Danyew**

Six Little Songs (2020)

Duration: 8:45

The Letters (0:50)
Orchard (1:30)
Thanksgiving (1:15)
Academy Hill (2:15)
The Man in the Moon (2:00)
The Chase (1:00)

Instrumentation:

Soprano (or Baritone)

Flute

Clarinet in Bb 1

Clarinet in Bb 2

Bass Clarinet in Bb

1 Percussionist (vibraphone*, glockenspiel, xylophone, triangle, wind chimes)

Piano

**Vibraphone motor should be off.*

Notes

Each of the poems that I set in this song cycle is a little vignette, written by my wife Ashley, that depicts a scene from our life together. My goal in writing the music was to create a unique musical world for each vignette that would help tell the story of that poem.

Here are details of the inspiration of each poem, from Ashley:

The Letters - a poem about the letters Steve and I wrote to each other the summer after we first met, when we were living on opposite sides of the country.

Orchard - a reflective poem about our visit to a small, family-owned apple orchard in Central Massachusetts one Sunday afternoon in early fall. It was a quiet, grey day, and the owners invited us to wander through the orchard as long as we liked.

Thanksgiving - a poem about our travels to visit Steve's family in Connecticut for our annual Thanksgiving gathering.

Academy Hill - a poem about a quiet hilltop park in the small Massachusetts town where we lived just after graduate school. (The place where Steve proposed.)

The Man in the Moon - a poem about childhood memories and the mystery of a moonlit night.

The Chase - a playful poem about the sun and the moon and a reflection on how fast time moves (especially when you're in love).

Six Little Songs was commissioned by a consortium of schools and ensembles led by Trae Blanco and Murray State University.

With great thanks to the commissioning organizations and individuals:

Trae Blanco, Murray State University
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John Oelrich, University of Tennessee Martin
Andy Pease, Hartwick College
Mark Scatterday, Eastman School of Music
Dominic Talanca, University of North Carolina Wilmington

TRANSPosed SCORE

The Letters

♩ = c. 80

3

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Flute, Clarinet in B♭ 1, Clarinet in B♭ 2, Bass Clarinet, Percussion/Vibraphone, Soprano, and Piano. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The Soprano part has lyrics: "The let - ters I keep fold - ed in white en - ve - lo - pes." The Piano part is marked *p* and includes the instruction *ped. ad lib. throughout*.

p ped. ad lib. throughout

8

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B♭ 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet in B♭ 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The Soprano part has lyrics: "Small pie - ces of time". The Piano part is marked *p* and includes the instruction *ped. ad lib. throughout*.

2

11

9

Fl.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib.

S

Pno.

cap-tured on hand-writt-en sheets. Parts of you I keep close

legato

p

legato

p

legato

p

mf

3

3

3

3

13

Fl.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib.

S

Pno.

to find small glimps-es of life now

mf

p

mp

mf

p

p

mf

p

p

Orchard

Gently, Serene (♩ = c. 100)

Musical score for the first system of 'Orchard'. The score is in 3/4 time and G major. It includes parts for Flute, Clarinet in B♭ 1, Clarinet in B♭ 2, Bass Clarinet, Percussion (Vibraphone and Triangle), Soprano, and Piano. The Flute part begins with a melodic phrase marked *mp*. The Clarinet in B♭ 1 part has a long melodic line starting with *pp* and moving to *mp*. The Clarinet in B♭ 2 and Bass Clarinet parts have rests followed by a melodic phrase marked *p*. The Percussion part features a vibraphone melody marked *mp* and a triangle accompaniment. The Piano part has a melodic line marked *mp* in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

pedal ad lib. throughout

Musical score for the second system of 'Orchard', starting at measure 11. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B♭ 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet in B♭ 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Vibraphone and Triangle (Vib. Tri.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part has a rest. The Clarinet in B♭ 1 part has a melodic phrase. The Clarinet in B♭ 2 part has a melodic phrase. The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic phrase. The Vibraphone and Triangle part has a melodic phrase marked *mp*. The Soprano part has a melodic phrase. The Piano part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: Sun - day af - ter-noon Grey.

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib. Tri.

S

Pno.

15

skies, green grass. or-chard trees, boughs bowed

3

23

27

poco rit. a tempo rit.

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib. Tri.

S

Pno.

22

mp

p

p

mp

Triangle

mf

Thanksgiving

5

Gently lilting ♩ = c. 52

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat 1

Clarinet in B \flat 2

Bass Clarinet

Percussion
Vibraphone

Soprano

Piano

mf

mp

mp

Grey No-ven - ber. _____

Red. _____ *sim.*

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib.

S

Pno.

Trav - 'ling a - cross sim-ple land - scapes. _____ E - ver - greens. _____

mf

2
12

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib.

S

Pno.

mp *mf*

mf

mf

Gath - ered to - geth - er

15

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Vib.

S

Pno.

15

Sing - ing a - round the pi - an - o. Grate - ful.

Academy Hill

Slowly, delicate ♩ = 48-52

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat 1

Clarinet in B \flat 2

Bass Clarinet

Percussion
Glockenspiel
Wind Chimes

Soprano

Piano

p

Qui-et foot-steps soft-ened light shar-ing

ped. ad lib. throughout

5

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Glockenspiel

Glk.
W.C.

S

Pno.

p

p

sil - ence in the near - ing night. Grass - y

2
7 Poco piu mosso ♩=58

Fl. *p* *p* *tr*

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Glk. W.C.

S *mp*
hill - top trees part - ing

Pno. *mp*

Fl. *mf* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Glk. W.C.

S *mf* *f*
ways state - ly moun - tain in full

Pno. *mf*

The Man in the Moon

5

A clear and quiet night... (♩. = c. 54)

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score includes parts for Flute, Clarinet in B♭ 1, Clarinet in B♭ 2, Bass Clarinet, Percussion Glockenspiel, Soprano, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as c. 54. The dynamic marking *mp* is used for the woodwinds and piano. The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "He comes at night" in measure 5. The Percussion part has a *mf* dynamic marking in measure 5.

Musical score for measures 6-9. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B♭ 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet in B♭ 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Glockenspiel (Glk.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The Soprano part continues with the lyrics "with faded clouds with silver stars gleaming and proud." in measures 6-8. The Glockenspiel part has dynamic markings of *mf* and *mp*. The Piano part has a *p* dynamic marking in measure 9. A *8va* marking is present above the Soprano part in measure 9.

2
10 Poco piu mosso ♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 10-13. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), B♭ Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), B♭ Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Glockenspiel (Glk.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Poco piu mosso' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The Flute and Glockenspiel parts feature a melodic line with a slur over measures 10 and 11. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands. The Soprano part is silent in these measures. The score concludes with a 'poco rit.' (poco ritardando) marking at the end of measure 13.



14 Tempo I (♩ = c. 54)

Musical score for measures 14-17. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), B♭ Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), B♭ Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Glockenspiel (Glk.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Tempo I' with a quarter note equal to approximately 54 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The Soprano part has lyrics: 'He ___ takes his seat a - bove this view ___ the world a-sleep light shin-ing through. ___'. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands. The Flute, B♭ Clarinets, and Glockenspiel parts are silent in these measures.

The Chase

Quickly, energetic ♩ = 144-150

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Flute, Clarinet in B♭ 1, Clarinet in B♭ 2, Bass Clarinet, Percussion Xylophone, Soprano, and Piano. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B♭ 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet in B♭ 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Soprano (S), and Piano (Pno.). A double bar line with a repeat sign is at the beginning of measure 5. A box containing the number 8 is located above measure 8. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *mf*. The Soprano part has lyrics: "He chas-es the sun _____ by".

2
10

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Xyl.

S

Pno.

night and by day. And though yet to catch her, re-

mf

f

mf

mf

mf

f

mf

16

15

Fl.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Xyl.

S

Pno.

sists all dis - may.

f

f

f

f

f

f