

William Neil

Twenty Seven Birds (proof)  
(2014)

for soprano, alto, piano four hands, and  
optional digital acoustics

TheComposerStudio.Com, LLC

Duration: ca. 8 minutes

Text

Program Notes

Notes on Performance



Bobolink

7

gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock see see yoo plink a plink a cha cha cha

gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock gock ba dee bo da

*whistle: f*

*8va*

*Red.*

cardinal

Bobolink

10

pur - ty pur - ty pur - ty pur - ty pur - ty pur - ty see see yoo

cheer cheer cheer bir-die bir-die bir-de cheer cheer cheer cheer cheer

*f*

*(8)*

*Red.*

whistle:

12

plink a plink a cha cha cha cha  
 ba dee bo da

*f*  
*whistle: f*

(8)

*ff* *f*

*ff* *f*

8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

Yellow Warbler

16

sweet sweet sweet I'm so sweet  
 sweet sweet I'm so sweet

*mp* *f*  
*mp* *f*

(8) 1

(8)

(8) 1

19

sweet I'm so sweet I'm so sweet so sweet so sweet so

sweet I'm so sweet I'm so sweet so sweet so sweet so

8<sup>va</sup>

22

sweet

sweet

(8)

8<sup>va</sup>

Bobolink

24

*f* see see yoo plink a plink a *f* cha cha cha cha cha cha *mf* ti ti ti ti ti ti *f* wee chew  
*f* ba dee bo da *whistle: f* ti ti ti ti ti ti

(8)

8<sup>va</sup>

Yellow Rail

26

*f* ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew 1. cluck cluck cluck 2. 3. toc tow toc tow 1. cluck cluck cluck  
*f* wee chew *f* ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew tic - a tic - a

(1. tongue clicks)  
 (2. tongue suction on roof of mouth, then quickly remove to make popping noise.)  
 (3. make the sound two with tongue)

(8)

8<sup>va</sup>

28

2. 3.

toc tow toc tow tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a

tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a tic - a

8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

30

*f* *Veery*

*f* *Veery* da - - - veer ur - #rrrr -

da - - - veer ur - #rrrr - da - - - veer ur - #rrrr -

8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>



32

da - - -veer ur - HHHH -

da - - -veer ur - HHHH -

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

*ff*

*ff*

Ped.

Ped.

35

*mf* *f* *mf* *f*

ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew

*mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew

(8) 7

37 *mf* *f*

ti ti ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew

*f* *mf* *f*

wee chew ti ti ti ti ti ti wee chew

*f*

8<sup>va</sup>.

Ped.

39

40

Musical score for measures 40-41. The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is in the upper system, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower system. The piano part consists of two staves: the upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The voice part starts with a rest, followed by a note on B-flat with the syllable 'kee', then a note on E with the syllable 'ee', and a glissando leading to a note on B-flat. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte) for the voice and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the piano.

41

Musical score for measures 42-43. The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is in the upper system, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower system. The piano part consists of two staves: the upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The voice part starts with a note on B-flat with the syllable 'kee', then a note on E with the syllable 'ee', and a glissando leading to a note on B-flat. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte) for the voice and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the piano. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment and chords as in the previous measures.

42 *mp*

*f*

*gliss.*

kee - ee

Detailed description: This system contains measures 42 and 43. The vocal line starts in measure 42 with a half note 'kee' followed by a half note 'ee', both with a glissando line above them. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and arpeggiated figures in the left hand. The bass line has a glissando in measure 43. Dynamics are marked as *mp* at the start and *f* for the vocal notes.

43 *f* *mp* *f*

*gliss.*

kee - ee *mp* *f* kee - ee *mp*

*gliss.*

kee - ee

*Ped.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 and 44. The vocal line has two phrases: 'kee - ee' in measure 43 and 'kee - ee' in measure 44. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and arpeggios. The bass line features a glissando in measure 44. Dynamics are marked as *f* for the vocal notes, *mp* for the piano accompaniment, and *f* for the second vocal phrase. A *Ped.* marking is at the bottom.

45 *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

*gliss.* *gliss.*

kee - ee - kee - ee - kee - ee -

8<sup>va</sup>

47 *mf* *ff*

*gliss.* *gliss.*

pur-ty pur-ty pur-ty pur-ty

8<sup>va</sup>

*Ped.*

50 *f*

here I am in a tree look up ov-er here see me up

here I am in a tree look up ov-er here

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 50 and 51. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "here I am in a tree look up ov-er here see me up". The piano accompaniment mirrors the vocal melody in the first two measures and then provides harmonic support.

8<sup>va</sup>

Detailed description: This block shows the 8<sup>va</sup> piano accompaniment for measures 50 and 51. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a dashed line indicating the octave and a bass clef staff. The music is primarily chordal, with some melodic movement in the treble staff.

52

here here I am ov-er here see me where are you

see me up here here I am ov-er here see me where are you

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 52 and 53. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "here here I am ov-er here see me where are you". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support for the vocal line.

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

Detailed description: This block shows the 8<sup>va</sup> piano accompaniment for measures 52 and 53. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a dashed line indicating the octave and a bass clef staff. The music is primarily chordal, with some melodic movement in the treble staff.

54

three a three a when I see you I will

(8) three a three a

This block contains the musical score for measures 54 and 55. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a second vocal line. The piano part includes a section marked with an 8va (octave) sign. The lyrics for measure 54 are "three a three a when I see you I will". The lyrics for measure 55 are "squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt". The second vocal line has lyrics "three a three a" under a dashed line.

55

squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt

when I see you I will squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt

8va

This block contains the musical score for measures 55 and 56. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a second vocal line. The piano part includes a section marked with an 8va (octave) sign. The lyrics for measure 55 are "squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt". The lyrics for measure 56 are "when I see you I will squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt".

Yellow Throated Vireo

56 *f*

here I am in a tree

*f*

here I am in a tree

57

look up ov - er here see me up

look up ov - er here

*8va*



58

here here I am ov-er here see me where are you  
see me up here here I am ov - er here see me where are you

Red.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 58 and 59. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are: "here here I am ov-er here see me where are you" on the first line, and "see me up here here I am ov - er here see me where are you" on the second line. The piano accompaniment includes a "Red." marking at the bottom.

60

three a three a when I see you I will squeeze you  
three a three a when I see you I will squeeze you

Red.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 60 and 61. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "three a three a when I see you I will squeeze you" on the first line, and "three a three a when I see you I will squeeze you" on the second line. The piano accompaniment includes a "Red." marking at the bottom.



67

legato

legato

Red.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 67 and 68. It features a piano accompaniment with a right-hand part (treble clef) and a left-hand part (bass clef). The piano part consists of a series of chords and moving lines. A vocal line (soprano clef) is present in measure 67, starting with a whole note chord. The word "legato" is written above the piano part in both measures. The word "Red." appears at the end of measure 68. The system concludes with a double bar line.

68

8va

This block contains the musical notation for measures 69 and 70. It features a piano accompaniment with a right-hand part (treble clef) and a left-hand part (bass clef). The piano part consists of a series of chords and moving lines. A vocal line (soprano clef) is present in measure 69, starting with a whole note chord. The word "8va" is written above the piano part in measure 69. The system concludes with a double bar line.

69

8va

*f*

*f*

*p*

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 and 70. It features five staves: two empty treble staves at the top, followed by a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a section marked '8va' with a dashed line above it, indicating an octave shift. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). A 'Red.' (reduction) bracket is placed below the piano part. The bottom staff is empty.

71

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

Red.

Red.

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 71 and 72. It features five staves: two empty treble staves at the top, followed by a grand staff with piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a section marked 'Red.' with a bracket below it. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte). The bottom staff is empty.

73

*f*

I flut-ter now I flut-ter On this flush pom-a-gra nate

I flut ter now On this flush

*f*

*Ped.*

75

bough I flut-ter now See me! 'tis this sil-ver-y bill E - ver cures the good man's

pom-a-gra-nate bough See me! 'tis this sil-ver-y bill E - ver cures this good

*mp*

*Ped.*

*Ped.*

ill. I fly -

man's ill. I fly -

*f*

*f*

*8va*

*Red.*

81 *p* *f* *p* *f*

A - dieu, a - dieu! A - dieu, a - dieu!

*p* *f* *p* *f*

A - dieu, a - dieu! A - dieu, a - dieu!

*ff* *ff*

*8va* *8va*

*legato*

*f* *f*

*Red.* *Red.*

88

*ff*

And a - - bove

*ff*

And a - - bove

Musical score for measures 88-89. It features a vocal line with lyrics "And a - - bove" and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a right-hand part with a melodic line and a left-hand part with a bass line. The piano part is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*) and includes a "Ped." (pedal) marking. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

90

in the light

in the light

Musical score for measures 90-91. It features a vocal line with lyrics "in the light" and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a right-hand part with a melodic line and a left-hand part with a bass line. The piano part is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*) and includes a "Ped." (pedal) marking. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

92

Of the star - -  
Of the star - -

*f*

Ped.

This block contains the musical score for measures 92 and 93. It features a vocal line with lyrics "Of the star - -" and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and a pedal point marked "Ped." at the bottom of the bass staff.

94

lit night  
lit night

Ped.

This block contains the musical score for measures 94 and 95. It features a vocal line with lyrics "lit night" and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a pedal point marked "Ped." at the bottom of the bass staff.



96

Swift

Swift

Ped. Ped. Ped.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 96 and 97. It consists of two vocal staves at the top, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The vocal lines are mostly whole notes with long slurs. The word "Swift" is written below each vocal staff. Below the vocal staves is a grand staff for piano, with a treble and bass clef. The piano part features a complex, rhythmic accompaniment with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The word "Ped." is written below the piano part at the beginning of each measure, indicating a pedaling effect.

98

birds of pas - sage wing their flight - - -

birds of pas - sage wing their flight - - -

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 98, 99, and 100. It features two vocal staves with lyrics. The lyrics are "birds of pas - sage wing their flight - - -". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern to the previous block, with "Ped." markings below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

101

On eve - ry bough the

8<sup>va</sup>

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

104

birds heard I sing, - - - - -

With voice of an - gels in their har - - - - -

8<sup>va</sup>

Ped. Ped. Ped.

106

I hear the cry

mo ny I hear the cry

*fff*

*Ped.*

110

*fff* *mp*

Of their voi-ces high - - - Fal-ling dream i - ly through the sky

*fff* *mp*

Of their voi-ces high - - - Fal-ling dream i - ly through the sky

*ff*

*Ped.*







151

*ord.*

*pp* *ppp*

*gliss.* *gliss.*

Where are — you?

*pp*

to me Where are — you?

*legato*

*ppp*

8<sup>va</sup>

*inside piano: soft mallet* *ppp*

8<sup>va</sup>

Ped.

(8).....

||

The musical score consists of five systems. The first system has two staves, both with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a quarter note B-flat, followed by two rests. The second staff begins with a quarter note B-flat, followed by two rests. The dynamic marking *ppp* is placed above the second staff. The second system has two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, with a circled '8' above the first measure. The lower staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with a series of eighth notes. The third system has two staves, both with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a bass line with quarter notes and rests. The fourth system has two staves, both with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a bass line with quarter notes and rests. The fifth system has two staves, both with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a bass line with quarter notes and rests. A circled '8' is placed above the first measure of the lower staff in this system. The score ends with a double bar line.



158

*pp*

*pppp*

Two vocal staves in treble clef. The first staff has lyrics "Where are you?" and the second staff has lyrics "Where are you?". The music consists of a few notes with a long sustain line. Dynamics *pp* and *pppp* are indicated.

Piano accompaniment for the first system. The right hand has a melodic line with a circled 8 above it. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics *pppp* are indicated.

Piano accompaniment for the second system. The right hand has a melodic line with a circled 8 above it. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics *pppp* are indicated.