

A Feather in a Shell

words and music by William Neil

♩. = 40

mp

the dead rise — be-fore us float - ing

♩. = 40

pp

1
3

4

on the swol - len air — Their voi - ces

4

f *p*

3

Red. _____

7

fro - zen — in mid air are now —

pp

5

5

2
9 *mf* *mp*

muted behind closed doors. Their eyes are

15

f *p*

12

lost gazing in - to smoky mirrors that

14

capture the last flicker of sun as it winds through

16 *pp*

old dus - ty rooms and out the back door.

f *p*

And.

doppo Più mosso

18 *mf*

ex - hus - ted from their ri - gor - ous farm

doppo Più mosso

mp

21

days, they de - ligh - ted in their ev' - ning meals, the

4

25

con - ver - sa - tion in - to the night the sur - ren - der.

4 5 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 25 has a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 26 has a quarter note followed by a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 27 has a quarter note followed by a half note. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. Measure 25 has a quarter note with a '4' above it. Measure 26 has a quarter note with a '5' above it. Measure 27 has a quarter note with a '3' above it. The piano part features a descending eighth-note line in the left hand and block chords in the right hand.

28

to lamp lit beds.

f

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28, 29, 30, and 31. The vocal line is in treble clef. Measure 28 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. Measure 29 has a quarter note followed by a quarter note. Measure 30 has a quarter note followed by a half note. Measure 31 has a quarter note followed by a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. Measures 28-30 have block chords. Measure 31 has a dynamic marking of *f* and a fermata over the notes. The piano part features block chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand.

32

mp black and white pho - tos

pp *ppp* *f*

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32, 33, 34, and 35. The vocal line is in treble clef. Measure 32 has a quarter rest. Measure 33 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. Measure 34 has a quarter note followed by a quarter note. Measure 35 has a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. Measure 32 has a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measure 33 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 34 has a dynamic marking of *ppp*. Measure 35 has a dynamic marking of *f*. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and block chords in the left hand.

36

slip from the back of old books.

(8) *pp* *ppp* *f* *pp* *ppp*

8va *8va*

41

p

their souls asked to be carried

(8) *pp* *ppp* *trm* *trm*

♩=45 *♩=45*

8vb

44

from where they fell to the edge of town.

mf *mp* *pp* *f*

trm *trm* *trm*

47 *pausa* *p*

let us guide them

49 *f*

to where the wind tears the black clouds

ff

51 *p*

a - bove the trees

sva

53 > *pp*

15^{ma}

mf

sempre pp

2 3 4

>

55 *p*

they will float to the

ff

Red.

57

high - est branch of the old - est tree *ff*

ff

Red.

59 *f*

on the dark-est night, the dark - -

15^{ma} 15^{ma}

ff

f

Red.

61

est night

8^{va} 8^{va}

f 2 2

Red.

62

of the

8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va}

3 3 3

4 4 2

63

year,

fff

mp

8^{vb} Red.

8^{vb} Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 63 and 64. The vocal line starts with a half note 'year,' followed by a whole rest. The piano accompaniment features a *fff* dynamic in measure 63, with a *mp* dynamic in measure 64. The piano part consists of chords with a tremolo effect. Pedal points are indicated as '8^{vb} Red.' in both measures.

65

mp

and

8^{va}

f

2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65 and 66. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 65 and a half note 'and' in measure 66, marked with *mp*. The piano accompaniment features a *f* dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a tremolo effect, marked with '8^{va}' and '2'. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with a tremolo effect.

66

8^{va}

8^{va} dis - ap -

4

4

Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 67 and 68. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 67 and a half note 'dis - ap -' in measure 68. The piano accompaniment features a *f* dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a tremolo effect, marked with '8^{va}' and '4'. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with a tremolo effect. Pedal points are indicated as 'Red.' in both measures.

67

pear

Red.

68

ppp

Red.

Red.

70

ad lib poco a poco ritardando

mp

we knew all a - long

pp

p

Red.

74

that the mus - ic had reached its ral - len - tan - do,

4

77

the slow - ing dan - cers, now locked in time

l.h.

p

pp

Red.

80

were ta - ken by a stiff - ness that di - min - ished

3

12

83

them to still - ness. now a

pp

Red. _____

87

ppp

qui - et set - tles in our ears like a fea - ther in a

pp

Red. _____

90

shell.

pp *ppp*

8va

1 4

Red. _____