

SCORE

Blossoms

for soprano, flute, cello, and piano

Liam Elliot

This piece is a setting of Harry Thurston's poem "Blossoms" from his 2015 collection *Keeping Watch at the End of the World*. I was drawn to the poem's sparse language, and to its journey from the natural world to the inner self. I am deeply grateful to Harry for allowing me to set his words.

Blossoms was composed for Alondra Vega-Zaldivar.

BLOSSOMS

I.

Pin cherry, shadbush, chokecherry
are clouds arrested,
cumulus caught in low branches,
the sky brought near.

II.

In blossom the apple tree outside
the window seems to lean in
closer – whether listening more intently
or intending to speak, I'm unsure,
but closer its beauty becomes our own –
it leans in, a lover or confidant,
with a secret to share.

III.

Despite all your sad ways,
beauty remains.

IV.

Let me in.

Blossoms

3

I

Liam Elliot

$\text{♩} = 112$

Soprano *mf*
Pin cher - ry, shad - bush, choke cher - ry — are — clouds ar -

Flute
mf *mp* *pp*

Violoncello

Piano

4
S. *mp*
-res - ted, — (niente) cu - mu - lus caught in low bran - ches,

Fl. *mf* *f* *p*

Vc. *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp*

Ped.

4

7

S. *mf*
the sky brought near.

Fl. *f* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp* (niente)

Pno.

II

$\text{♩} = 104$

mp *rit.*

S. In blos-som the ap-ple tree out-side the win-dow seems to lean in

Fl. $\text{♩} = 80-100$
do not match tempo with voice or cello

Vc. $\text{♩} = 80-100$
do not match tempo with voice or flute

Pno.

17 $\text{♩} = 60$

S. *p* *3* *3* *3*

clo - ser — whe-ther lis-ten-ing more in-ten-tly or in-ten-ding to speak I'm

Fl. *mp* *(niente)* *pp* *3* *3*

Vc. fast unpitched bowing (mute strings with L.H.) normal I *mp* *pp* *8va*

Pno. *pp* *3*

Red. sempre

20 *p* *3* *3* *3*

S. un - sure, — but clo-ser its beau-ty be - comes our own — it leans

Fl. *pp* *3*

Vc. unpitched *p*

Pno. *ppp* *3*

6

poco rit.

24

S. in, a lo - ver or con - fi - dant, with a sec - ret to share.

Fl. breath through flute normal

Vc.

Pno.

(8)

p *ppp*

III

7

$\text{♩} = 38$

mp **Più mosso**

S. 28 *mp* *3* De-spite all your sad ways, — beau-ty re-mains. *3*

Fl. *p* *3* *pp* *p* *mp* *3*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *mp* *3* *p* *3*

Ped. *sempre*

33

Fl. *3*

Vc. *3* *pp*

Pno. *3* *f* *pp* *f* *p*

37

Fl. *mp* *pp*

Vc.

Pno. *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

Measures 37-41. Flute (Fl.) plays a half note G4 (mp) and a whole note G4 (pp). Violoncello (Vc.) is silent. Piano (Pno.) has a complex texture with triplets and dynamic markings: mp, f, p, mf. The piano part includes several triplet markings in both staves.

42

Fl.

Vc. fast with lots of bow noise

Pno. *f* *cresc.* *ff*

Measures 42-45. Flute (Fl.) is silent. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a fast, noisy passage with a triplet marking and a crescendo line. Piano (Pno.) has a complex texture with triplets and dynamic markings: f, cresc., ff. The piano part includes several triplet markings in both staves.

46

Fl.

pp *non dim.* *attacca*

Vc.

p *ff*

Pno.

47 48 49

IV

50

p

S.

Let me in.

Pno.

51 52 53