



Six Little Songs

Steve Danyew

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OR PERFORMANCE

Six Little Songs (2017)

In this song cycle, I set six short poems written by my wife, Ashley.

Each poem depicts a scene that I hope to capture in the music.

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.

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.)

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.

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).

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

The songs may be sung in any order that the performers prefer.

Orchard

Ashley Danyew

Steve Danyew

Gently, Serene (♩ = c. 100)

Soprano

Piano

pp *p*

pedal ad lib. throughout

S

mp

Sun - day

Pno.

S

af - ter-noon Grey skies,

Pno.

S 17
green grass. or- chard trees, _____ boughs bowed

Pno.

S 22 *poco rit.*

Pno.

S 27 *a tempo* *mp*
ap- ples ripe and red. _____ Slow _____ steps,

Pno.

Academy Hill

Ashley Danyew

Steve Danyew

Slowly, delicate ♩ = 48-52 *p*

Soprano

Qui-et foot-steps soft-ened

Piano

p

ped. ad lib. throughout

4

S

light shar- ing sil- ence in the near- ing

Pno.

6

S

night. Grass-y hill- top

Pno.

mp

5

5

5

Academy Hill

2

8

S

trees part - ing

Pno.

9

S

mf

ways state - ly

Pno.

10

S

f

moun tain in full

Pno.

mf

11

S

win - ter dis - play.

Pno.

12

S

8va

Pno.

f *p* *p*

7 *5* *3*

ped.

15

S

Tempo I ♩ = 48-52

Branch-es bare sky

Pno.

p

ped. ad lib.

The Letters

♩ = c. 80

Soprano

mp

The let - ters I keep fold - ed

Piano

p *ped. ad lib. throughout*

S

4

in white en - ve - lopes. Small

Pno.

S

8

3

3

pie - ces of time cap - tured on hand - writt - en sheets. Parts of

Pno.

11 *mf*

S

you I keep close to find small

Pno.

15

S

glimps-es of life now dist - ant be - fore you were

Pno.

18 *p* *poco rit.*

S

here with me.

Pno.

Thanksgiving

Ashley Danyew

Gently lilting ♩. = c.. 52

Steve Danyew

Soprano

Piano

S

Pno.

mp

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

Red. *sim.*

Grey No-ven - ber.

Trav - ling a - cross sim - ple land - scapes.

Ever - greens.

14 *mf*

S Gath - ered to - geth - er _____ Sing - ing a - round the pi -

Pno. *mf*

16 *mp*

S an - o. _____ Grate - ful. _____ Giv - ing

Pno.

19

S thanks _____

Pno. *mp*

The Man in the Moon

Ashley Danyew

Steve Danyew

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

Soprano

Piano

mp

S

Piano

mf

He comes at night with faded clouds with silver stars

S

Piano

Poco piu mosso ♩. = 60

gleam-ing and proud.

ova

p

mp

11 *poco rit.*

S

Pno.

Tempo I (♩. = c. 54)

14 *mf*

S

He — takes his seat a - bove this view the world a - sleep

Pno.

17

S

light shin - ing through.

Pno.

p

The Chase

Ashley Danyew

Steve Danyew

Quickly, energetic ♩ = 144

Soprano

Musical staff for Soprano, measures 1-3. The staff is mostly empty with a few rests.

Piano

Piano accompaniment for measures 1-3. The left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The right hand plays chords and eighth notes. Dynamics include *f*.

S

Musical staff for Soprano, measures 4-6. The staff is mostly empty with a few rests.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for measures 4-6. The left hand continues the rhythmic pattern. The right hand plays chords and eighth notes.

S

Musical staff for Soprano, measures 7-9. The staff contains the lyrics "He chas-es the sun" and "by night and by day." with musical notation.

He chas-es the sun _____ by night and by day. _____

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for measures 7-9. The left hand continues the rhythmic pattern. The right hand plays chords and eighth notes. Dynamics include *mf*.

S *11* *f*

And though yet to catch her, re -

Piano part for measures 11-14, featuring a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

S *15* *f*

sists all dis - may.

Piano part for measures 15-18, continuing the accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *f*.

S *19*

Piano part for measures 19-22, continuing the accompaniment.

The Chase

mf

22

S

She chas-es the moon

Pno.

26

S

by day and by night. And so they con-

Pno.

30

S

tin - ue

Pno.