

Cameron Biles-Liddell

Nocturnes

For Soprano & Piano

Score

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Programme note:

Nocturnes sets two contrasting texts on the theme of sleep & insomnia. The music emulates this restlessness in the piano textures, where the first text sets an extract from a soliloquy in Henry IV. In this setting, the piano creates a gentle rocking motion with the musical idea constantly shifting within the metre, emulating an anxious tone. The soprano is contemplative and creates a calm atmosphere, often imitating the piano's gestural content. The song then reaches a climax where the music becomes more animated, creating a point of desperation for peace, before fading away on the opening stanza '*O sleep, O gentle sleep, nature's soft nurse*'.

The second song complements the expansive first song. Through setting the evocative and illusive poetry of Emily Dickinson, I wanted to explore the resonance of the piano and voice, in order to reflect the poem. The music here is more introspective and meditative, exploring ideas of musical space and harmonic colour in the soprano and piano. Through using shimmering textures in the upper register of piano, I provide a bed of sound for the voice to articulate this intimate poetry.

Cameron Biles-Liddell (February 2023)

Further information about scores and parts can be found at:
<https://www.cameronbiles-liddell.com/>

Duration: Ca. 10-12'

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Texts

I

O sleep, O gentle sleep,
Nature's soft nurse, how have I frightened thee,
That thou no more will weigh my eyelids down,
And steep my senses in forgetfulness?
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoky cribs,
Upon uneasy pallets stretching thee,
And hush'd with buzzing night-flies to thy slumber,
Than in the perfum'd chambers of the great,
Under the canopies of costly state,
And lull'd with sound of sweetest melody?

William Shakespeare (*Henry IV, part 2*)

II

Rests at Night
The Sun from shining,
Nature-and some Men-
Rest at Noon-some Men-
While Nature
And the Sun-go on-

Emily Dickinson

Nocturnes

For
Soprano & Piano

I

(O Sleep)



William Shakespeare

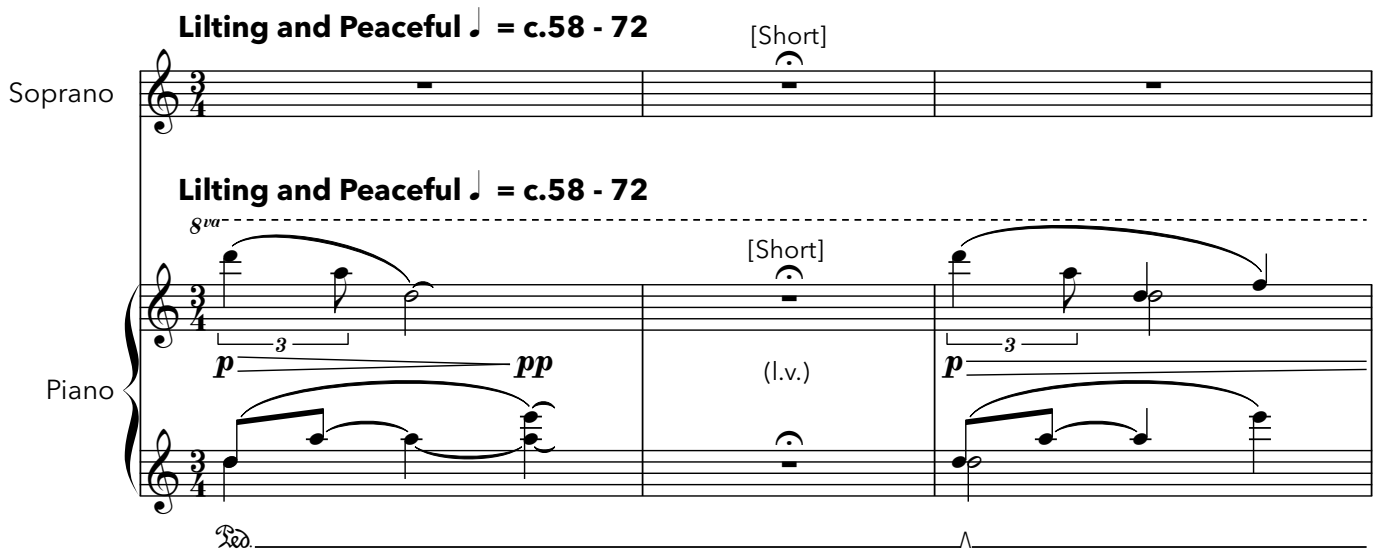
Cameron Biles-Liddell

Lilting and Peaceful ♩ = c.58 - 72 [Short]

Soprano

Lilting and Peaceful ♩ = c.58 - 72

Piano

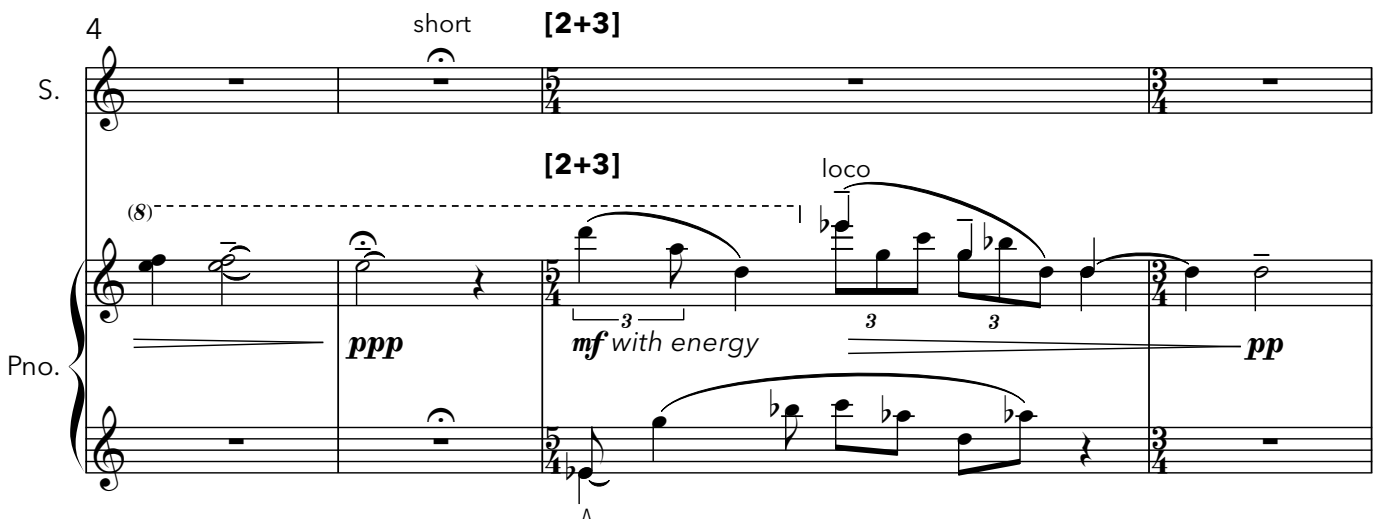


4 short [2+3]

S.

[2+3] loco

Pno.



8

S. *p* sotto voce
O sleep

Pno. *peacefully*
p *pp* *mf* *p*

13

S. *pp* *mp* *p*
O sleep O gen-tle sleep

Pno. *pp* *mp* warmly *pp*

17

S. *warmly* *poco f* *p*
na - tures soft nurse

Pno. *mf* *p* *cresc.* *mf*

A

21

S. *mf dim.* *pp*
How have I frigh - tened thee

Pno. *p* *pp* *p express.*

24

S. *mf* *p* *cresc.*
That thou no more will

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *8va*

27

S. *with frustration*
weigh will weigh my

Pno. *poco f* *p* *pp cresc.*

30 (cresc.) **poco accel.**
poco f

S. eye _____ lids down _____

Pno. **poco accel.**
poco f *veloce* *dim.*

32 **B** **A Tempo** (♩ = 58-72) *mysteriously*
p (sub.) *pp*

S. And steep _____

B **A Tempo** (♩ = 58-72)

Pno. *pp* *mf* *p*

35 *p* *mp* *p*

S. And steep _____ my sen - - ses

Pno. *mf* *p*

38 warmly *mp* *p*

S. in for - get - ful ness

Pno. *mf* *p sub.* *gva* flowing

41 *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

S. why ra - ther ra - - - ther sleep

Pno. *loco* *cresc.* *f warmly* *gva* *loco*

44 *expressive* *(p)* *pp*

S. li - est thou in smo-key cribs

Pno. *(legato)* *p* *mf* *p dim.* *pp still*

48

S. *mf* *pp*
up - on un - ea - sy pal - lets

Pno. *mf* *pp* *p*
8^{va} loco 5
sonorously

52

S. *poco f* *p*
stretch-ing thee

Pno. *p* *pp* *p* *pp*
5

55

S. *sotto voce* *pp*
And hush'd

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*
8^{va} 8^{va} 1

59 *mf* *p*

S. And hush'd _____ with buz - zing night - flies

Pno. *p* *pp* *fp* fluttering

62 *dim.*

S. to thy slum - - - - - ber

Pno. *dim.* *ppp*

64 **D** *pp* *cresc.*

S. Than _____

Pno. **D** *rumbling*

67

S. _____ in the per - - fum'd cham - bers _____ of the

Pno. *cresc.*

69 *f* **boldly**

S. great of the great _____

Pno. *like a burst of energy* *8va* *f*

71

S. _____ un - der _____ un - der _____

Pno. *p sub. with excitement* *cresc.*

73 **poco accel.**

S. *the can - o - pies of cost - - ly*

Pno. **poco accel.**
legato sim.
8^{va}

75 **f**

S. *state And lull'd*

Pno. **f joyously** *loco* **p sub.** *bring out top notes*

(loco)

77

S. *And lull'd And*

Pno. **cresc.**

79

S. *f* $\text{\textcircled{3}}$

sound _____ sound _____ of sweet - est mel - - o -

Pno. *cresc.*

A Tempo (♩ = 58-72)

81

S. *ff*

dy _____

A Tempo (♩ = 58-72)

Pno. *f broadly*

84

S.

Pno. *cresc.* $\text{\textcircled{3}}$ (r.h.) (l.h.) 5 *ff* (loco) *dim.* ca. 10'' *ppp*

8va repeat freely - gradually slow down.

87 *p* freely *mf*

S. *3* *3* *3*

And lull'd with sound of sweet - est

Pno. [loco] *p*

91 *p* *pp*

S. *3*

mel - o - dy mel - o - dy

Pno. *p dim.*

gently

95 *p* *pp*

S. *3* *3*

sleep O sleep O

Pno. *pp* *E*

100

S. *mp* *pp*
gen - tle sleep O gen - tle

Pno. *p dim.* *pp*

103

S. *mp* *pp* *sotto voce distant*
sleep Na - tures

Pno. *simply p pp mf p*

106

S. *ppp*
soft nurse soft

Pno. *ppp*

110 *p* *ppp*

S. nurse

(like an echo)

Pno. *p* tenderly *pp* *ppp*

poco rit. [opt. attacca]

114

S. [opt. attacca]

poco rit. [opt. attacca]

Pno. *dim.* *pp* *ppp*

8va