

ed scolding



The Sickness of Angels
for vocal ensemble

for vocal ensemble:

solo soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices

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performance notes:

glissandi always begin from the start of the note beginning the gliss. line.

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approx duration:

7 mins

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text:

XXXV from the collection *Dark Harbor* by Mark Strand.

The sickness of angels is nothing new.
I have seen them crawling like bees,
Flightless, chewing their tongues, not singing.

Down by the bus terminal, hanging out,
Showing their legs, hiding their wings,
Carrying on for their brief term on earth,

No longer smiling; asleep in the shade of each other
They drift into the arms of strangers who step
Into their light, which is the mascara of Eden,

Offering more than invisible love,
Intangible comforts, offering the taste,
The pure erotic glory of death without echoes,

The feel of kisses blown out of heaven,
Melting the moment they land.

The Sickness of Angels

words from XXXV by Mark Strand

music by Ed Scolding

♩ = c.56 mechanical, unstable, agitated, abrupt

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

*'si' as in 'sick'

A

4

si- si- si- si- si- si- sick - ness

si- si- si-si- si- sick - ness si-

si- si- si- si- si- sick - ness

si*-

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7 *fp* *gliss.* *pp* *poco rit.* *p* *gliss.* *f* *mp*

si- sick - ness an-gels is noth-ing new...

3 *3* *pp* *p* *fp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *gliss.*

-i- of a*- of a- a- an - gels nnn

p f *ff* *p fp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.* *pp*

8 the si- a*- of a- a- an - gels nnn

pp *p fp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

sick - ness of a*-a- a- nnn

*'a' as in 'angels'

B

10 *ppp* $\text{♩} = 52$

f *pp* *f* *fp* *3* *fp* *pp*

I I have seen them see seen

ppp

gliss. *f*

$\text{♩} = \text{c.72 rit.}$ $\text{♩} = 60$

19 *mf* pp *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

tongues, — tongues, not sing- ing — sing — sing sing.

mf pp *fp* *mf* *p* *pp*

their tongues, tongues, not — sing- ing — sing — sing.

p pp *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

8 tongues, — not sing- ing sing sing — sing sing.

$\text{♩} = \text{c.80 with a feel of irregular pulsing}$

22 *fp* sfz:p *sfz:p* sfz:p *gliss.* *fp* sfz:p *p* sfz:p *fp*

Down — by — the bus — ter

fp sfz:p *sfz:p* sfz:p *gliss.* *fp* sfz:p *p* sfz:p *fp*

Down — by — the bus — ter

sfz:p sfz:p *fp* sfz:p sfz:p *fp*

Down — by — the bus — bus — ter

p *fp* sfz:p sfz:p

by — the bus — bus —