

Heaven's Chimes are Slow

for flute and piano

2010

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This piece began life as a song for soprano and piano, the final part of my cycle *On Love and Death - 5 Rossetti Songs*, which set the following text by Christina Rossetti:

Heaven's chimes are slow, but sure to strike at last:
Earth's sands are slow, but surely dropping thro':
And much we have to suffer, much to do,
Before the time be past.

Chimes that keep time are neither slow nor fast:
Not many are the numbered sands nor few:
A time to suffer, and a time to do,
And then the time is past.

As the poem suggests, the piece is a meditation on time. The music emphasizes in particular the conflict between harmonic stasis - generally inhabiting the world of a C-spectrum - and progressive rhythmic pulsation. The various 'chiming gestures' also hint at the sense of melancholy inevitability conveyed by the text.

Duration: c. 7 minutes

Heaven's Chimes Are Slow

for Flute and Piano

Christian Mason (Dec. 2010)

Ecstatically Serene,
Infinitely Delicate

♩ = c.40

- = full tone
- = half breath tone

Flute

ppp Voice ppp pp ppp p pp mp sfzp

ppp pp ppp p pp mp p f f p f

ppp p p p p p p p

4 Flute

ppp Voice mf sfzp ppp f

ppp mf sfzp ppp f

f p f f p

8 A

lip bend

sfz > p sfzp pp p < f pp sfz > p f

f > p fp pp

f ppp p ff p f f pp p f mf

B

Musical score for section B, measures 12-15. The piano part features a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Dynamics include *sfzp*, *ppp*, *ppp*, *f*, and *mf*. The flute part has a triplet in measure 14. A *Red.* (Reduction) marking is present in the left hand of the piano part.

Musical score for section B, measures 16-19. The piano part features a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Dynamics include *f*, *pp*, *p*, *fp*, *fp*, and *fp*. The flute part has a triplet in measure 16 and a *finger gliss* marking. A *8va* marking is present in the right hand of the piano part.

C

Musical score for section C, measures 20-23. The piano part features a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Dynamics include *sfzpp*, *ff*, *f*, *p*, *f*, and *p*. The flute part has a triplet in measure 20 and a *Flute* marking. The voice part has a triplet in measure 20 and a *Voice* marking. A *silently depress, apply Sos. Ped.* marking is present in the right hand of the piano part.

24

finger gliss

sfzpp *ff* *fff* *pp* *sfzpp* *ff* *pp*

f *p* *f* *p*

Sos. Ped. sempre

p *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *f* *p* *f*

27

ff *fff* *pp* *p* *f*

ff *f* *p*

p *p* *ff* *pp* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

29

lip gliss

fff *pp*

ff *f* *p*

p *p* *fff* *pp* *pp* *p* *p* *f* *p* *ff*

31

31

f *pp*

Sos. Ped.

pp *f* *ff* *pp*

3 3 3 3

31

This system covers measures 31 and 32. The top staff features a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *f* and *pp*. The middle staff has chords with dynamic markings of *f* and *p*, and a 'Sos. Ped.' line. The bottom staff has a bass line with dynamic markings of *pp*, *f*, and *ff*, and triplets.

32

32

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

Sos. Ped.

ff *p* *ff* *f* *p*

3 3 3 3

32

This system covers measures 33 and 34. The top staff has a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *ff* and *pp*. The middle staff has chords with dynamic markings of *ff* and *p*, and a 'Sos. Ped.' line. The bottom staff has a bass line with dynamic markings of *ff* and *p*, and triplets.

33

33

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

Sos. Ped.

f *ff* *p* *p*

3 3 3 3

33

This system covers measures 35 and 36. The top staff has a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *ff* and *pp*. The middle staff has chords with dynamic markings of *ff* and *p*, and a 'Sos. Ped.' line. The bottom staff has a bass line with dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*, and triplets.

lip gliss

poco rit. ♩ = c.30

finger gliss

D Suddenly Incandescent, Effusive

♩ = c.50

Ped. sempre, but gently lift if resonance becomes too big

finger gliss.

E Wildly Clangorous

Musical score for measures 42-44. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Piano, and Bass. Measure 42 features a piano (*pp*) treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a piano (*p*) bass staff with a quintuplet of eighth notes. Measure 43 features a fortissimo (*ff*) treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a fortissimo (*ff*) piano staff with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 44 features a fortissimo (*ff*) treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a fortissimo (*ff*) piano staff with a quintuplet of eighth notes. A *Red.* (ritardando) marking is present at the end of measure 44. The section concludes with a *finger gliss.* instruction.

Musical score for measures 45-46. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Piano, and Bass. Measure 45 features a *lip gliss.* instruction over a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff and a fortissimo (*ff*) piano staff with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 46 features a *finger gliss.* instruction over a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff and a fortissimo (*ff*) piano staff with a triplet of eighth notes. The section concludes with a *finger gliss.* instruction.

Musical score for measures 47-48. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Piano, and Bass. Measure 47 features a fortissimo (*fff*) treble staff with a *finger gliss.* instruction and a fortissimo (*fff*) piano staff with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 48 features a fortissimo (*fff*) treble staff with a *finger gliss.* instruction and a fortissimo (*fff*) piano staff with a triplet of eighth notes. The section concludes with a *finger gliss.* instruction.

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is written for a piano and a vocal line. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes, marked with *ff* and *f*. The vocal line has a melodic line with triplets and a final triplet marked *vo*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Musical score for measures 52-55. This system includes parts for Flute, Voice, and Piano. The Flute part has a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *pp*, and *mp*. The Voice part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. The Piano part has a sustained chordal texture with dynamics *p*, *pp*, and *mp*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Musical score for measures 56-57. The score is written for a piano and a vocal line. The piano part features a sustained chordal texture with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The vocal line has a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *Led.*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

59

(8)

ppp
Ped.

pppp
Ped.

F Very Slow, Serene, Wistful
♩ = c.30

61

pp *f* *p* *ppp* *p*

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

pp
Ped.

mf

p

Very long: pause until after the sound has decayed completely

65

Very long: pause until after the sound has decayed completely

ppp

p