

Sarah Lianne Lewis

New Dreams for Old

Soprano and Piano

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for Soprano and Piano

New Dreams for Old

Is there no voice in the world to come crying,
 "New dreams for old!
 New for old!"?
Many have long in my heart been lying,
 Faded, weary, and cold.
All of them, all, would I give for a new one.
 (Is there no seeker
 Of dreams that were?)
Nor would I ask if the new were a true one:
 Only for new dreams!
 New for old!

For I am here, half way of my journey,
 Here with the old!
 All so old!
And the best heart with death is at tourney,
 If naught new it is told.
Will there no voice, then, come -- or a vision --
 Come with the beauty
 That ever blows
Out of the lands that are called Elysian?
 I must have new dreams!
 New for old!

Cale Young Rice (1872-1943)

Programme Note

"New Dreams for Old" is based on a poem on the same name written by American poet and dramatist Cale Young Rice (1872-1943). Despite the poem having been written when Rice was in his mid-forties, it eerily predicts his unhappy mental state later in life, after his wife dies. The poem depicts a fragile narrator, desperate for a new purpose, after discarding the old dreams they once had. The pleas become ever more desperate as the poem draws to a close, with the piano providing a dream-like backdrop against the singer's disjunct and dejected melodies; the juxtaposition of promising dreams against the current unhappy situation of the narrator.

This song was composed during the Aldeburgh 'English Song Project' 2013. The italicised text at the end of the second verse remains unset; instead singer ends the song with the poignant question, and the piano answers with material based on previously heard chords.

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Text by Cale Young Rice (1872-1943)

Espressivo ♩ = c.78

Soprano

Piano

pp *mp* *pp*

8va

Red.

5 ♩ = c.88 *mp*

Is there no voice in the world to come cry-ing

p *gliss.*

p 3

9

"New dreams for old! New for old!?" Ma - ny

pp 3 *mp*

13

have long in my heart been ly - ing Fad - ed, wea - ry, cold.

pp

sfz 5 *p*

18

All of them, all would I give for a

mp

8va

mp *p*

23

new one. (Is there no seek-er of dreams that were?)

Freely ♩ = c.63 *sprechgesang* ord.

gliss.

mp *p* 5

26

Passionately ♩ = c.78

Nor would I ask if the new were a true one:

mf *gliss.* *8va* *bell-like* *ppp*

mf *p*