

DOMINIC MULDOWNNEY

**Songs from
The Good Person
of Sichuan**

For medium voice and piano

(1989)

Texts by Bertolt Brecht

English translations by Michael Hofmann

FABER *ff* MUSIC

These songs were written for actors to perform. This is not to deter singers from performing them as a concert sequence, but to draw attention primarily to their dramatic content and context.

Dominic Muldowney

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1 Song of the Smoke

(The family)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

Rubato molto $\text{♩} = 60-96$
mf

Voice

1. Years a - go, be - fore the years' snow turned my hair white,
 (2.) ho - nest and hard - work - ing type lose out,
 (3.) old, I hear, they're noth - ing left to hope for

colla voce

Piano

mf

sf

5

I hoped to make my way in life by na - tive
 And so I tried the o - ther, crook - ed way of
 'Cause hope needs time, and time for them, a - las, is

9

wit. To - day I know that no a - mount of wits suf - fice To
 vice. That al - so leads the likes of us to ru - in, So
 short. The young like us, I hear, the gate is o - pen for. But

rit. *a tempo*

2 On Suicide

(Shen Te)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

Lento ♩=72

Voice *semplice*

Piano *p*

con Ped.

3 *pochiss. rit.* *a tempo*

5

7

6 3

In this our coun-try, and
in these times We should be rid of
dull and gloo-my ev'-nings. — Like - wise high brid-ges o - ver the ri - vers,
Al- so the hour be-fore the dawn — ap- pears And the

3 Pigs'll Fly

(Song of Never Never Day)
(Yang Sun)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

♩. = 120

Voice

Piano

p

f

8va bassa

4

sto - ry goes, and it's so well known, That the poor boy'll sit on a

f

(8va bassa)

7

gol - den throne. Pigs - 'll fly, - pigs - 'll fly, - He'll be

(8va bassa)

10

sit - ting on a gol - den throne. Crime

p cresc.

fzp

(8va bassa)

8va bassa

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a time signature of 12/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 4, 7, 10) at the beginning. The voice part is on a single staff, and the piano part is on two staves (treble and bass). Dynamics include piano (p), forte (f), piano crescendo (p cresc.), and fortissimo piano (fzp). The piano part includes an 8va bassa (8th octave bass) line indicated by a dashed line. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

4 Song of the Inadequacy of the Gods and the Good

(Shen Te)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

Ad lib. p parlando e leggero

Voice: In our coun-try the use-ful man needs luck. On-ly if he

Piano: *p*

Sua bassa

4 finds strong back-ers can — he de - ve - lop his use-ful-ness. The

8 good can-not help them-selves, and the gods have no po-wer to as - sist them.

12 *mp* Why are the gods not e - quipped with guns and tanks, With bombs and with shells, and with

pp

Red.

5 Song of the Waterseller in the Rain

(Wang, the Waterseller)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

Ad lib. *falsetto* *pp* **Tempo di tango** ♩=60 *norm.*

Voice

Piano

Wa - ter! I sell

6 *mf* *Red.*
wa - ter for a liv - ing - And now it's pis - sing down like hell. Had to

10
walk for miles this morn - ing To fill these buc - kets at the well.

14 *falsetto* *p* *norm.* *mf*
Wa - ter! Thir - sty and parched,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo of 'Tempo di tango' at 60 beats per minute. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a voice part with a falsetto section marked 'pp' and a piano accompaniment starting with 'pp'. The second system (measures 6-9) has a voice part with a 'Red.' (redouble) marking and a piano accompaniment marked 'mf'. The third system (measures 10-13) continues the piano accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 14-17) features a voice part with a falsetto section marked 'p' and a piano accompaniment marked 'mf'. The lyrics are: 'Wa - ter! I sell wa - ter for a liv - ing - And now it's pis - sing down like hell. Had to walk for miles this morn - ing To fill these buc - kets at the well. Wa - ter! Thir - sty and parched,'.

6 Trio of the Vanishing Gods on the Cloud

(The Gods)

Text by BERTOLT BRECHT
translated by Michael Hofmann

Tempo di valzer $\text{♩} = 112$

♩ = 72-96

mf

rubato molto

Voice

Piano

Real - ly now we

6

must be go - ing, — It's high time that we weren't

11

here. Put through tests more tho - rough -

16

- go - ing, Our pre - cious find might dis - ap - pear.