

for Joanna Percy and Grace Templeton, SongFest 2023

Sudden Light

for Voice and Piano

Text by Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Music by Jaclyn Breeze

2023

Sudden Light - Dante Gabriel Rossetti

I have been here before,
But when or how I cannot tell:
I know the grass beyond the door,
The sweet keen smell,
The sighing sound, the lights around the shore.

You have been mine before, —
How long ago I may not know:
But just when at the swallow's soar
Your neck turn'd so,
Some veil did fall, — I knew it all of yore.

Has this been thus before?
And shall not thus time's eddying flight
Still with our lives our love restore
In death's despite,
And day and night yield one delight once more?

Performance Notes

Piano: Feathered beaming measures are gestural. The number of repetitions is not meant to be specific. Start slow and speed up until the held note, listen to the voice for when to move on when needed.

Voice: Your text is not meant to be exactly in time, think of a more recitative feel. The piano is written for you to bounce off of for entrances then they will follow you through the line.

Sudden Light

Jaclyn Breeze (BMI)

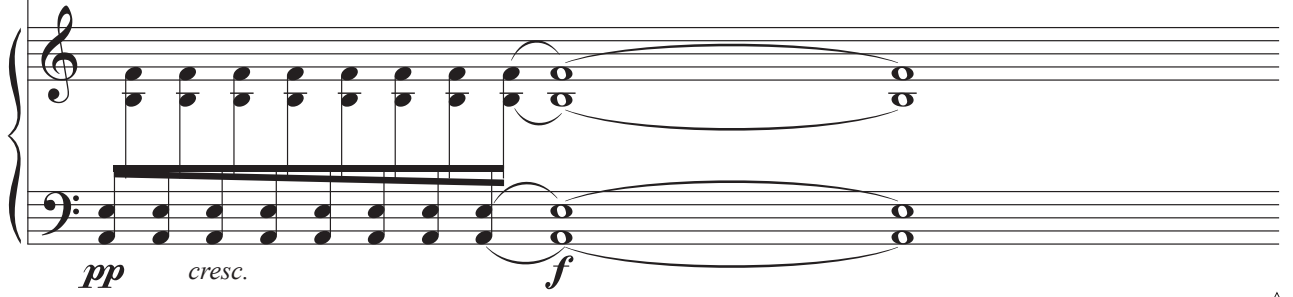
Freely, Quasi-recit, Reflective ♩ = 66 *mf*

Voice



I have been here be-fore, But when or how I can-not tell:

Piano

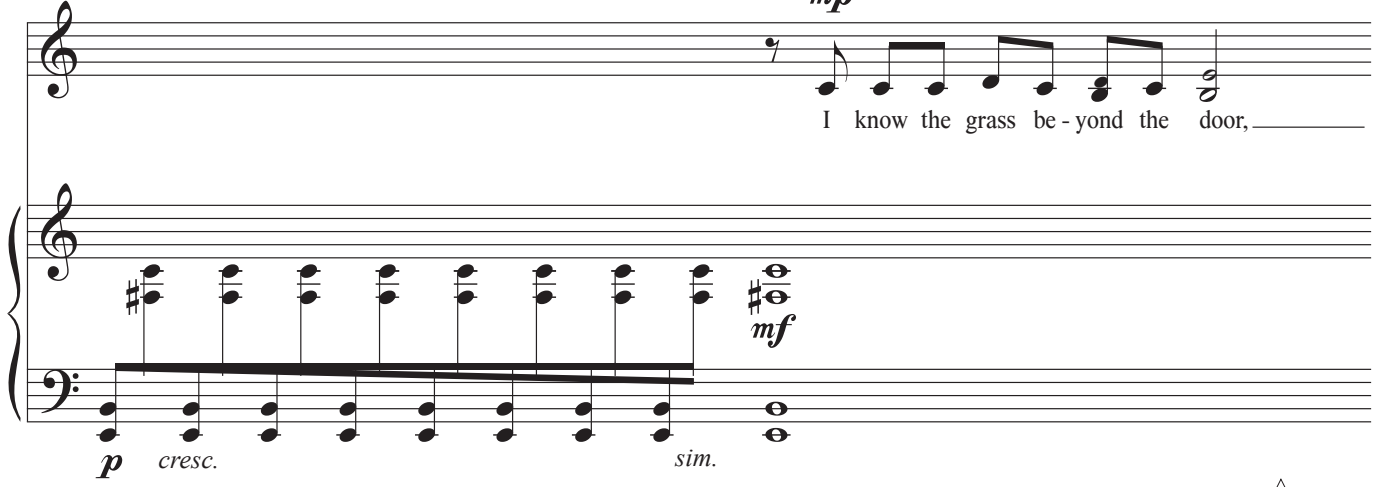


pp *cresc.* *f*

mp

I know the grass be-yond the door, _____

Pno.

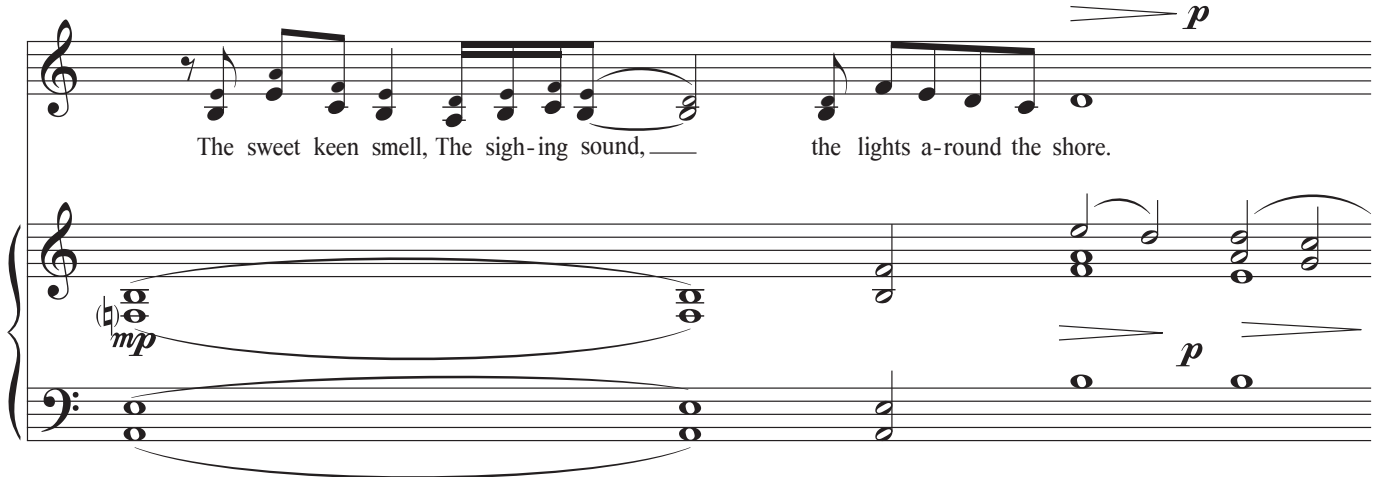


p *cresc.* *sim.* *mf*

Ad.

The sweet keen smell, The sigh-ing sound, _____ the lights a-round the shore.

Pno.



mp *p*

A

f *mf*

You have been mine be - fore, How long a - go I may not know:

Pno. *pp* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a rest, then enters with a half note 'You' on a dotted line, followed by eighth notes 'have', 'been', 'mine', and a half note 'be - fore,'. The second measure begins with a rest, followed by eighth notes 'How', 'long', 'a - go', and a half note 'I may not know:'. The piano accompaniment consists of two chords: a C major triad (C-E-G) in the first measure and a D major triad (D-F-A) in the second measure. Dynamics are marked as *pp* for the piano, *f* for the vocal entry, and *mf* for the second measure.

mp

But just when at the swal - low's soar Your neck turn'd so,

Pno. *f* *mp*

Leg.

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line starts with a rest, then enters with a half note 'But' on a dotted line, followed by eighth notes 'just', 'when', and a half note 'at the swal - low's soar'. The second measure begins with a rest, followed by eighth notes 'Your neck turn'd so,'. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand, starting with a C major triad and moving through various chords. Dynamics are marked as *mp* for the vocal entry, *f* for the piano accompaniment, and *mp* for the second measure. A 'Leg.' (legato) marking is present below the piano part.

p

Some veil did fall, I knew it all of yore.

Pno. *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the final two measures. The vocal line starts with a rest, then enters with a half note 'Some veil did fall,' on a dotted line, followed by eighth notes 'I knew it all of yore.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics are marked as *p* for the vocal entry and *p* for the piano accompaniment.