

commissioned by Abbey Greene

Songs My Mother Taught Me

for Mezzo-soprano and Piano

Text by Adolf Heyduk
Translation by Natalie Macfarran

Jaclyn Breeze

2024

Songs My Mother Taught Me

By Adolf Heyduk

Translated by Natalie Macfarran

Songs my mother taught me in the days long vanished,
Seldom from her eyelids were the teardrops banished.
Now I teach my children each melodious measure;
Often tears are flowing from my memory's treasure.

Program Notes

Songs My Mother Taught Me is a four-line poem, with the first two lines discussing the past, and the last two the present. I've set these four lines in the same keys and with the same melodic contour to emphasize the original poem. The middle section of this piece gradually modulates to a foreign key and new time signature to bring the listener and singer back in time, with the singer remembering their mother singing this lullaby. As the lullaby ends, there is a much more abrupt transition back into the main idea as the singer is snapped out of their daydream and reveals the similarities between themselves and their mother.

This piece was commissioned by Abbey Green for her Master's Recital at Bard Conservatory in 2024.

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Songs My Mother Taught Me

Jaclyn Breeze (BMI)

Reflective, Mourning, Rubato Throughout (♩ = 80)

Mezzo-Soprano

f
Songs _____ my moth - er taught me in the

Piano

pp *f*

pedal freely

Detailed description: This system contains the first six measures of the piece. The Mezzo-Soprano part begins with a whole rest in measures 1-4, followed by a melodic line starting in measure 5 with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics 'Songs _____ my moth - er taught me in the' are written below the staff. The Piano accompaniment features a series of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. Dynamics range from pianissimo (*pp*) to forte (*f*). A 'pedal freely' instruction is placed below the piano part.

Mezzo

mp *p*
days long van - ished _____ Sel - dom from her eyes were the tear - drops ban - ished. _____

Pno.

mp *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 12. The Mezzo-Soprano part continues with the lyrics 'days long van - ished _____ Sel - dom from her eyes were the tear - drops ban - ished. _____'. Dynamics are mezzo-piano (*mp*) and piano (*p*). The Piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes, with dynamics of mezzo-piano (*mp*) and pianissimo (*pp*).

Mezzo

accel.

13

Pno.

accel.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. The Mezzo-Soprano part has whole rests. The Piano accompaniment features a more active melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Both parts are marked with an acceleration (*accel.*) instruction. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Dreamy, a little faster (♩. = 50)

Mezzo *mp*
Dar - ling, dar - ling, what do you fear? The

Pno. *mp*

Mezzo *mf*
dark - ness brings peace through all of your tears. Dar - ling,

Pno. *mf*

8va -----

Mezzo *p*
dar - ling, what do you fear? The si - lence brings peace,

Pno. *p*