

Black Thunder

Full Score

For baritone & piano
Music by Melissa Dunphy
Text by Luke Stromberg

4 min

2007

Arr. 2021

Black Thunder

By Luke Stromberg

It was late. Her light was the only light
That could be seen from the street below.

I held a bouquet of roses, standing
in her doorway, a useless grin on my face.

She smiled sympathetically
And looked away.

Last night I drank until my head
Roared with black thunder.

I staggered home, feeling lost.
Two dogs whispered gossip to each other.
Somewhere sirens wailed like ghosts.

I laid down on my floor
And watched the ceiling fan spin
When it wasn't on.

When the days pile up, like neglected dishes

In the sink. I start to panic,
Lost in the dark rooms of my imagination.

She sounds very bored when we talk.

Every smile a secret sneer.

My brain whirls like a table-saw.

Composed for the Network for New Music Poetry Project 2008.

Premiered January 16, 2008 at the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia,

by Network for New Music:

Randall Scarlata, baritone

Paul Arnold, violin

James Cooper III, cello

Linda Reichert

Arranged for CodyRay Caho, 2021.

Black Thunder

Melissa Dunphy
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Andante (♩ = 70)

mp hopeful

Baritone

Piano

Andante (♩ = 70)

p

8^{va}

It was late. Her light was the

6

on - ly light__ That could be seen__ from the street be - low. I

(8)

10

held abou-quet__ of ros - es, stand-ing in her door-way, a use-less grin on my face.

(8)

14

A

She smiled _____ sym - pa-thet - ic' ly _____

(8)

sub. p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 through 18. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in measure 14, followed by a half note G2 in measure 15, a half note A2 in measure 16, and a half note B2 in measure 17. In measure 18, there is a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets in the right hand and a bass line with a long note in measure 14 and a triplet in measure 18. A dynamic marking of *sub. p* is present in measure 18.

19

f suddenly dark

B

And looked _____ a - way.

ff violently

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 22. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 19, followed by a half note G2 in measure 20, a half note A2 in measure 21, and a half note B2 in measure 22. The piano accompaniment is more complex, featuring triplets and sixteenth notes in both hands. A dynamic marking of *ff violently* is present in measure 22.

23

ff violently

Last night I drank _____ un-til my head _____ roared_ with blackthun-der_

ff violently

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23 through 26. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 23, followed by a half note G2 in measure 24, a half note A2 in measure 25, and a half note B2 in measure 26. The piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and triplets. A dynamic marking of *ff violently* is present in measure 23.

C

27

I stag-gered home, feel-ing lost. Two dogs whis - pered

p bitterly

pp suddenly calm

32

* gos-sip to each o-ther. Some-where si-rens wailed like ghosts. I

rit. I

rit. I

* whissssss-pered

37

laid down on my floor And

Tempo I (♩=70)

p

Tempo I (♩=70)

accel.

pp 6 6 6 6 6 6

D

40

watched _____ the ceil - ing fan

6 6 6 6 6 6 6

E

42

spin When it was - - n't on.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6

f *tr*

45

f When the days pile up like ne glect - ed dish-es in the sink,

3 3 3 3

mf

49

mp I start to pan - ic _____ Lost _____ in the dark rooms of my i-

3 3 3 3

f *p*

53

a piacere

mag - i - na - tion. She sounds ve - ry bored when we talk. Ev' ry

pp

58

F

smile a se - cret sneer. My

pp

sempre Red.

62

brain whirls like a ta - ble saw.

65

rit.

rit.

scratch lengthwise along string
with fingernail and let ring