

Black Thunder

Full Score

For baritone, violin, cello & piano

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Text by Luke Stromberg

3.25 min

2007

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

Black Thunder

Melissa Dunphy
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Andante (♩ = 70) *mp hopeful*

Baritone: It was late. Her light was the

Violin: *p*

Violoncello: *p*

Piano: *p*, 8va

6

Baritone: on - ly light. That could be seen from the street be - low.

Vln.: *p*

Vc.: *p*

Pno.: *p*, (8)

9

Musical score for measures 9-11. The score includes vocal lines and accompaniment for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

Vocal line: I held a bou quet of ros - es, stand-ing in her

Accompaniment: Vln., Vc., Pno.

Measure 9: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

Measure 10: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. The vocal line continues with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment has a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

Measure 11: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. The vocal line continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The piano accompaniment has a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

12

Musical score for measures 12-14. The score includes vocal lines and accompaniment for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

Vocal line: door- way, a use - less grin on my face.

Accompaniment: Vln., Vc., Pno.

Measure 12: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

Measure 13: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. The vocal line continues with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment has a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

Measure 14: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The vocal line continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The piano accompaniment has a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

15

A

She smiled sym - pa -

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

18

thet - ic' - ly And looked a -

f suddenly dark

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

sub. p

22 **B**

ff violently

way. Last night I drank un-til my

Vln. *ff* violently

Vc. *ff* violently

Pno. *f*

B

3 3 3

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 22 through 24. It features five staves: Bass (Bass clef), Violin (Treble clef), Viola (Bass clef), and Piano (Grand staff). The Bass staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "way. Last night I drank un-til my". The Violin and Viola staves provide accompaniment with dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff* respectively, and the instruction "violently". The Piano staff features a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *f* and includes triplet markings (3) above the right-hand part. A section marker **B** is placed above the Piano staff at measure 22. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

25

head roared with black thun- der.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

3 3

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 25 and 26. It features five staves: Bass (Bass clef), Violin (Treble clef), Viola (Bass clef), and Piano (Grand staff). The Bass staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "head roared with black thun- der.". The Violin and Viola staves provide accompaniment. The Piano staff features a piano accompaniment with triplet markings (3) above the right-hand part. A section marker **B** is placed above the Piano staff at measure 25. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

27

I stag-gered home, feel-ing

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

ff

3

29

lost. Two dogs whis-pered * gos-sip to each o-ther. Some-where si-rens

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p bitterly

sub.p

ff

p suddenly calm

pp suddenly calm

3

C

* whissssss-pered

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6

34

rit.

Wailed like ghosts. I laid down on my

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

rit.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 34 through 37. It features four staves: Bass (B), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 3/4. The vocal line is in the Bass staff, with lyrics "Wailed like ghosts. I laid down on my". The Violin and Viola parts have long, sweeping lines with slurs. The Piano part consists of chords and single notes. A "rit." (ritardando) marking is present above the first staff and above the Piano staff. A hairpin crescendo is shown above the first staff.

accel.

Tempo I (♩=70)

38

p

floor And

Vln. *sul pont.*
pp leggiero

Vc.

Pno.

accel.

Tempo I (♩=70)

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 38 through 41. It features four staves: Bass (B), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is in the Bass staff, with lyrics "floor" and "And". The Violin part has a rapid, rhythmic pattern marked "sul pont." and "pp leggiero". The Viola part has a few notes in the first measure. The Piano part is mostly rests. An "accel." (accelerando) marking is present above the first staff. A hairpin crescendo is shown above the first staff. The tempo marking "Tempo I (♩=70)" is present at the end of the first staff.

40

D

watched the ceiling fan

Vln.

Vc.

pp

D

Pno.

42

spin When it was n't

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

tr

pp

44 **E**

on. When the days pile up like neglected dishes in the sink,

Vln. *ord.*
f

Vc.
f

Pno.
f *mf*

49 *mp*

I start to panic,

Vln.
f

Vc.

Pno.
p *f*

51

Lost in the dark rooms of my i - mag - i - na - tion.

Vln. *sub. p* *pp*

Vc. *sub. p* *pp*

Pno. *p*

55 *a piacere*

She sounds ve-ry bored when we talk. Ev' ry smile a se-cret sneer.

Vln. *G.P.* *p* *F* *sul pont.*

Vc. *G.P.* *p*

Pno. *G.P.* *F* *pp*

60

My

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 60 and 61. The vocal line (Vc.) begins with a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, and D3, which is sustained with a fermata across both measures. The violin (Vln.) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a sharp sign, grouped in pairs and separated by slurs. The piano (Pno.) part has a bass line with a whole note chord of G2 and Bb2 in measure 60, and a whole rest in measure 61. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 60 and a single eighth note G3 in measure 61, with the lyric "My" underneath.

62

brain whirls like a ta - - - ble

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 62 and 63. The vocal line (Vc.) starts with a whole note chord of G2, Bb2, and D3, sustained with a fermata across both measures. The violin (Vln.) part continues with the same rhythmic eighth-note pattern as in the previous system. The piano (Pno.) part has whole rests in both measures. The vocal line has lyrics "brain" under measure 62 and "whirls like a ta - - - ble" under measure 63. A 4/4 time signature change occurs at the start of measure 63.

64

64

saw.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

scratch lengthwise along string with fingernail and let ring

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 64 and 65. It features four staves: Bassoon (Bsn.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The Bassoon part starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a whole rest. The Violin part plays a continuous sixteenth-note figure: G4-A4-B4-C5, with slurs and ties. The Viola part has a whole note G2 with a fermata. The Piano part has whole rests in both hands. A performance instruction 'scratch lengthwise along string with fingernail and let ring' is written above the piano staff in the second measure, with a small graphic of a hand scratching a string below it.

66

66

rit.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

rit.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 66, 67, and 68. It features the same four staves as the previous block. The key signature remains one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The Bassoon part has whole rests in measures 66 and 67, followed by a quarter note G2 in measure 68. The Violin part continues with the same sixteenth-note figure as in measure 65. The Viola part has a whole note G2 with a fermata in measure 66, followed by whole rests in measures 67 and 68. The Piano part has whole rests in both hands in measures 66 and 67, followed by a quarter note G2 in measure 68. The word 'rit.' (ritardando) is written above the Bassoon and Piano staves in measure 66, with a dashed line extending through measure 67.